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CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIX, Issue No. 300 | WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 16, 2009 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

NMC survey affirms grave impact of stray animals. PAGE 2

Joint panel to start deliberation on FY10 budget. PAGE 5

Brown: Over 10,000 foreign workers already registered

Brown

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As of yesterday afternoon, over 10,000 alien workers have already participated in the accounting process of the Federal Labor Ombudsman's Office on Saipan, according to Pamela Brown.

She said the registration at the Marina

See BROWN on Page 4

EPA fines CUC $29K

Lawmaker: CUC approach is 'costly, disastrous'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency fined the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. $29,000 yesterday for failing to submit a satisfactory facility oil spill response plan, even as a lawmaker heading a utilities committee says CUC's approach to federal mandates is "both costly and disastrous."

See EPA on Page 4

OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Should NMC revisit its policy of allowing the termination of NMC employees without cause?

Let your voice be heard!
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to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Deep Wharf

Navy officials want to build a deep-draft wharf in Guam's main harbor to better accommodate nuclear-powered aircraft carriers.

LOCAL...Page 14

Restive Mayon

Authorities moved thousands of villagers from harm's way near Mayon Volcano after it oozed lava and shot plumes of ash.

WORLD...Page 17

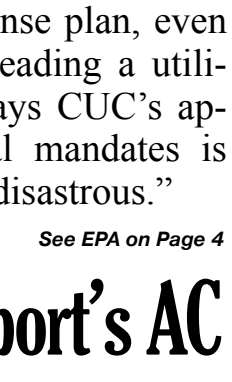
NEW HEADQUARTERS HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Construction personnel work on the roof of the former Daewa Building along Micro Beach Road in Garapan yesterday afternoon, in preparation for the May 2010 relocation of Bridge Capital LLC's headquarters to the renovated facility. Bridge Capital, an investment banking firm headquartered in the CNMI, has donated close to $60,000 to schools and community groups on the island this year, and is currently looking at other business opportunities such as agriculture and power production.

Airport's AC at departure areas down for 3 weeks

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For about three weeks now, tourists and employees of the Francisco C. Ada International Airport are being stewed in their own sweat after the main air-conditioning unit at the airport's departure area broke down.



In a visit by the *Saipan Tribune* to the airport yesterday, a large number of tourists and employees were seen stoically braving the heat and fanning themselves to keep cool.

Airport manager Ed Mendiola said yesterday that a little over

See AIRPORT'S on Page 4

20 lead 'top to bottom' review of 24 agencies

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

At least 20 individuals are leading the "top to bottom review" of 24 Executive Branch agencies and programs as the Fitial administration prepares for its second term in January 2010.

The 20 individuals are considered "team leaders," and each team consists of up to five members.

See 20 LEAD on Page 4

Local

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NMC survey affirms grave impact of stray animals

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A survey conducted by Northern Marianas College students under the class of instructor Sam McPhetres affirmed the grave social impact of stray animals on the island.

Done in collaboration with the Saipan Mayor's Office, the three-member student group initiated the study to determine the social, environmental, and economic effect of these stray animals and to aid the Mayor's Office in building public support so that a solution may be acted upon sooner.

Based on the survey result released yesterday, 77 percent of community respondents say that feral cats and dogs are not helping the community in any way; 38 percent feel bad each time they see stray animals in the middle of the road; and 55 percent are deeply concerned about these animals' presence. A total of 78 percent agree that these stray animals are a serious problem, compared to only 22 percent who said otherwise.

Majority of the respondents, or 37 percent, agree that the immediate solution to the spread of stray animals is the building of a permanent shelter. Twenty-nine percent say that a pound is also an alternative solution while 17 percent agree that these animals must be euthanized. Only 8 percent believe that adoption is an option.

A large number of respondents—46 percent—told of seeing these stray animals around their homes once in a while; 42 percent say these animals frequent their place. Majority, or 58 percent, said that more than five stray animals live in their immediate neighborhood while 33 percent say they have more than five in their village.

A large number—57 percent admitted to being victimized by these animals.

Thirty percent of the respondents believe that an increased budget for the Saipan Mayor's Office could help address the problem and many believe the office must initiate immediate action before these animals further hurt island tourism.

An overwhelming 66 and 73 percent of the respondents said yes when asked if dead or stray animals are harmful to the environment and pose as threat to the health of the people. They cited the spread of diseases as among the factors to consider in addressing the issue.

Other findings:

- 56 percent strongly agree that more trash are being seen on the streets and in villages because of stray animals;
- 58 percent say the animals chase away tourists and visitors; and
- 71 percent are convinced that tourists have negative feeling about the presence of stray animals on island.

In the survey's conclusion and recommendation, the students said the best solution to the stray animal problem is for the Saipan Mayor's Office to ask the Legislature to craft legislation for more funding and support for the project. They emphasized the importance of building and maintaining a permanent shelter for these animals.

The mayor's office has been flooded with complaints of victims of stray animals but the concern has not been resolved for many years despite the establishment in 2003 of a law on dog control.

The mayor's program was initially allocated $75,000 for this project under Saipan Local Law 9-12. However, this was stalled for many years due to the lack of additional funding. The program was supposed to use a facility in As Perdido to keep the stray dogs but this plan was later changed.

For now, a temporary animal shelter is being built in Lower Base while waiting for additional funds for the permanent dog shelter, which will now be built in Kagman.

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NMHC: Lack of funding a barrier to affordable housing

Federal housing agency funds 37 NMI projects in eight years

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A total of 37 projects were approved and funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the CNMI in the last eight years, according to the latest report of the Northern Marianas Housing Corp.

Of these projects, 25 were for Saipan, seven were approved for Tiniam, and five for Rota.

Every year, the federal agency provides NMHC $2 million in housing assistance grant: the Community Development Block Grant, which amounts to $1.3 million; Emergency Shelter Grant, $61,844; and Home Investment Partnership Grant, $583,259.

These annual grants go to building public facilities, rehabilitation and revitalization, utility improvements, and recreational facilities and improvements.

Five important projects were completed in 2008 using federal funding:

- rehabilitation of the Susupe Track and Field bleachers;
- the Tinian Amphitheater Phase II;
- the one million gallon water reservoir rehabilitation on Capital Hill;
- the Susupe Sports Complex walkway; and
- the Marianas High School Building J. Eight new classrooms were built to accommodate hundreds of students daily.

In 2000, nine projects benefited from the funding, including the rehabilitation of the Multi-Purpose Center, recreational center bleachers on Saipan, a van for the disabled, and the Tinian Community Center. Seven projects were completed in 2001; four projects in 2002; and the Garapan water restoration in 2003.

Four other priority undertakings were pushed and accomplished in 2004; four in 2005; four in 2006; two in 2007; and two in 2008.

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. cited the lack of funding as a major barrier to affordable housing in the Commonwealth, based on the annual performance and evaluation report it will submit to the U.S. Housing and Urban Development.

Another barrier is Article 12, which restricts landownership in the CNMI to persons of Northern Marianas descent, according to the housing agency.

In program year 2008, a total of over 100 families who have been determined eligible for assistance under the HUD's Home Program are still awaiting funding.

"Many families who own fee simple properties and who are eligible for assistance are still in line waiting to be assisted," the report states.

Article 12 is also considered a barrier to affordable housing because this law restricts fee simple ownership to CNMI descendants and discourages speculative housing finance and construction, according to NMHC.

"As with the Article 12 issue, it is bound by law. Therefore, the NMHC is powerless to address this barrier," the NMHC report said.

Another major hindrance to affordable housing is the minimum wage. NMHC said the CNMI needs to improve labor standards as it relates to the going wage rate.

"The minimum wage…is insufficient to allow individuals to move up and out of poverty/subsidized living," the report stated.

The CNMI's minimum wage is currently at $4.55 per hour. It will increase by 50 cents every year until it reaches the federal standard of $7.25 per hour.

The report, called the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report, covers program year 2008, during which NMHC received $1.3 million for the Commonwealth Development Block Grant; $583,259 for the Home Investment Partnership Grant; and $62,844 for the emergency shelter grant. Program year 2008 marks Year 4 of the corporation's five-year consolidated plan.

High demand

NMHC's report stated that the foremost barrier that has had a negative impact in its effort to meet its goals is the limited funding versus the high demand for housing and public facilities in the CNMI.

At present, NMHC has 363 approved housing choice voucher units. As of Sept. 30, 2008, there are over 600 people listed on the program's waiting list, waiting to be assisted.

"As we can see through the data, the CNMI has such a high demand for housing, as individuals are undergoing tough economic times," the report said.

According to the CNMI Census 2000, it is estimated that 800 to 850 very low to low moderate income owner-occupant households are estimated to be in severely overcrowded housing.

NMHC added that about 200 non-family renter households are estimated to be in severely overcrowded housing.

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EPA

From Page 1

The $29,000 penalty is just a fraction of the $630,000 in penalties accrued as of Oct. 16 for CUC's continued non-compliance with the provisions of two federal stipulated orders.

Tony Muña, executive director of CUC, said that "CUC had requested for application of the fine toward cost of waste oil disposal and other requirements of the stipulated order."

He said CUC issued in the past week a notice of intent to award two contracts costing $531,000 for the disposal of years of accumulated waste oil in Tank 104, and $127,000 for the repairs to Tanks 105 and 106.

CUC also recently completed a pipeline repair costing $4,000, he said.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial approved last month CUC's request for capital improvement project funding to address Stipulated Order 2 requirements totaling over $7 million. Projects include major pipeline repair or replacement and storage tanks' major repairs.

'Costly, disastrous'

Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan), chair of the Public Utilities and Infrastructure Committee of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, said "so much more could have and should have been done to comply with the orders and avoid these penalties."

On Thursday last week, Sablan's committee received testimony from CUC officials about its compliance with the orders.

"I was troubled to observe during the legislative hearing last week that some folks are apparently hoping CUC might be able to avoid penalties if it at least shows some good faith and at least partially complies with the federal mandates. Clearly, this approach is both costly and disastrous. The most recent $29,000 penalty is for only one of many violations, and that penalty along with all the others will only continue to accrue until CUC is in compliance," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The stipulated orders represent the agreement between the CNMI and the EPA based on the requirements of the Clean Air Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

'Unsatisfactory plan'

The EPA, in a statement yesterday, said it fined CUC $29,000 for failing to meet the requirements of a stipulated order seeking to reform and bring into compliance CUC's five power plants and an oil transfer pipeline.

"The penalty is for failing to submit a satisfactory facility response plan as outlined in the order," the federal agency said.

The order required CUC to submit a facility response plan for its Lower Base power plants by July 9, 2009. CUC submitted the plan. However, on Sept. 17, 2009, the EPA disapproved the initial submitted plan and provided CUC 20 days to correct and resubmit the plan. CUC did not submit a corrected plan to EPA.

Daniel Meer, the EPA's assistant Superfund director for the Pacific Southwest region, said the "potential for oil releases from [CUC] facilities and harm to environment is significant and CUC must implement steps to prevent and prepare for such discharges or face additional penalty demands."

Venugopal Prabhakara, CUC engineering manager for power production, said CUC resubmitted the revised facility response plan to EPA on Dec. 14, Monday.

'No record'

Muña also said that "CUC has no record or not aware of the EPA's report of discharges of harmful quantities of oil into nearshore waters and shorelines," referring to a statement from EPA.

Muña said CUC safety officer Matt Chargalauf advised that since 2002, CUC has reported about five releases of oil with an estimated cumulative total of no more than 3 gallons.

"The oil releases were due to pinhole leaks observed during pipeline transfers of fuel. Pipeline repairs were made immediately. Since 2002, CUC has successfully transferred in excess of 250 million gallons of fuel without incident," Muna told *Saipan Tribune* when asked for comment.

The EPA, in its statement, said the agency has found that "CUC has caused discharges of harmful quantities of oil into the nearshore waters and shorelines. In addition to past oil releases and the ongoing threats of oil releases from these facilities, CUC has failed to prepare and implement oil spill prevention plans for each of its five power plants and a facility response plan at its main power plant in Saipan, which is near Tanapag Harbor."

The EPA requires a facility response plan for facilities that store over 1 million gallons of oil and have potential to cause significant and substantial harm to the environment.

The plans must document that a facility has the necessary resources and equipment to respond to a worst case discharge, such as those that can be caused by typhoons and earthquakes.

CUC owns five power plants on Saipan and Rota.

'Very late internal deadline'

Muña, along with CUC assistance executive director Abe Malae, and CUC deputy director for water and wastewater Bruce Megarr told lawmakers they will be able to submit a complete interim financial plan and an organizational evaluation and reorganization plan, among other things, by Dec. 31.

But Sablan said in that Dec. 10 hearing, lawmakers were given the impression by CUC officials that EPA had granted an extension of sorts until Dec. 31 for the utilities agency to correct violations identified in EPA's Oct. 16 notice of penalties.

"I have recently learned that EPA has actually not granted any such extension, and the Dec. 31 deadline is apparently just an internal CUC deadline—and a very late one at that, for deliverables that should have been provided in September," Sablan said.

Rejected plan

Prabhakara said CUC had previously submitted a facility response plan that was rejected by the EPA due to the lack of appropriate response equipment, contract resources, and compliance with the specific requirements of Code of Federal Regulations (40 C.F.R. Part 112.20), including the worst case discharge scenario.

He said CUC had since worked to correct the problems, including hiring consultant EA Science and Technology to review and incorporate the revisions required.

20 LEAD

From Page 1

Some of the team leaders are overseeing more than one agency.

Transition Committee chair Gregorio "Kachuma" Camacho, who is chairman of the Covenant Party, is the team leader for the review of the Office of the Attorney General, as well as the Department of Public Safety.

Clyde Norita, vice chair of the Transition Committee, heads the review of the Department of Commerce and the Marianas Public Land Trust.

Former representative Ana S. Teregeyo heads the review team for the Office of the Public Defender, Women's Affairs Office, and the Indigenous Affairs Office.

Joe Limes is the team leader for the review of the Carolinian Affairs Office.

The other team leaders and the agencies being reviewed are: Tony Rasiang, Department of Public Works; Joe T. Torres, Department of Public Works; Jesus Muna, Department of Corrections; Oscar Rasa, Department of Public Lands; Danny Buniag, Department of Lands and Natural Resources; Ike Demapan, Department of Public Health; Rufin Inos, Department of Finance; Felix Nogis, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs; and Martin Sablan, Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

The team leaders and "autonomous agencies" reviewed include: Jack Ogumoro, Commonwealth Ports Authority; Jack Manglona, Commonwealth Development Authority; Mario Taitano, Civil Service Commission; Pete R. Guerrero, Marianas Visitors Authority; Alvaro Santos, NMI Retirement Fund; and Oscar Babauta, Commonwealth Election Commission.

Dr. David Borja, a former independent candidate for lieutenant governor, heads the review team on the Northern Marianas College.

The Fitial administration said the transition team will be "performing a top to bottom review of all government operations in an effort to ensure that government resources are being spent wisely and policies are being carried out that provide a real and true benefit to every citizen."

The Covenant Party headquarters on Middle Road is now the office of the Transition Committee.

Fitial said the reports on the agency review will have to be completed before the inauguration, set for Jan. 11, 2010.

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The Board reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in a proposal if doing so is in the best interest of the Fund. All proposals shall become the property of the NMI Retirement Fund.

AIRPORT'S

From Page 1

two weeks ago, the main air-conditioning unit that provides cool air to Gates 3 and 4 went down. It is now awaiting parts for repair. He assured that delivery of parts and repair of the unit will be done this month.

Usually, in the absence of the main air-conditioning unit, other units hooked up to the airport's two transformers are used to temporarily cool down the place.

Mendiola said a fuse in one of the two transformers blew up two weeks ago, resulting in the transfer of all electrical loads to just one transformer.

"In doing that, we had to cut down some power usage because we don't want the other transformer to overload because that's the only one we have and we don't want to create more problems in the end," Mendiola said.

This means the other units hooked to the remaining transformer were turned off.

There are a total of 47 aircon units in the entire airport area, one of which directly supports the departure areas.

Although they have replaced the fuse in the damaged transformer, proper testing is still required by CPA and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., he said.

On Monday, CUC gave the go signal for the damaged transformer to be turned on. However, because of the required monitoring, not all aircon units were allowed to be hooked to the transformers.

Mendiola said they are scheduled to switch on all air-conditioning units in the departure area today—minus the main unit that is awaiting parts.

"Our two transformers are back in service now and we will monitor the voltage level and … if everything goes right, it would be back to normal at the departure area," Mendiola said.

BROWN

From Page 1

Heights II Building in Puerto Rico where their office is located went smoothly.

"Everything went well. Everybody's cooperating and helping," Brown told *Saipan Tribune*. She was seen personally assisting the workers outside and inside the building.

The Ombudsman's staff began the registration on Monday, from 4pm to midnight, with the help of members of the United Workers Movement Inc.

Monday, the first day of the "accounting" process on Saipan, turned out to be fast and easy for the alien workers.

Yesterday, the Ombudsman began the registration at 2pm as many workers were already there. The registration is fast because workers are only required to fill up a one-page form and attach copy of their passport or receipt of their passport's renewal.

Yesterday's schedule was supposedly for workers whose last names start with C and D but the Ombudsman's staff decided to accommodate all workers even though they were not scheduled to register that day.

Brown said she is very happy because businesses, employers, and workers are helping each other and are cooperating.

Some employers are collecting the registration forms for their employees to save on gasoline and time for their workers.

The Ombudsman had already completed its registration on Tinian last Friday and on Rota last Saturday.

Brown, however, refused to comment on Dekada Movement counsel Stephen Woodruff's statement about the Ombudsman's "accounting" process.

Woodruff had cautioned alien workers who do not have "umbrella permits" against participating in the Ombudsman's "accounting."

"There is a very real risk that aliens lacking an umbrella permit who register with the Ombudsman's office could be setting themselves up as targets for deportation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement," said Woodruff in a statement.

Joint panel to start deliberation on FY10 budget

Lawmakers now notifying public ahead of meetings, sessions

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan) said yesterday that the House and Senate Conference Committee on the Fiscal Year 2010 budget bill will hold its first meeting on Friday, Dec. 18, at 10:30am in the speaker's conference room.

A conference committee has been formed after the House rejected the Senate's amendments to Yumul's House Bill 16-275.

The House budget bill identified budgetary resources of $162.820 million, which the Senate agreed on.

But while the House bill pegs the appropriations at $150,288,886, the Senate amended it to $154,418,886 and included austerity measures like a 16-hour cut in government work hours per pay period to help reduce the projected deficit of $15.3 million in FY 2010.

In a memorandum dated Dec. 15, Yumul said the purpose of the Dec. 18 meeting is "to begin deliberation on the Fiscal Year 2010 budget."

Yumul is the chair of the House Conference Committee, along with members Rep. Justo Quitugua (D-Saipan), Rep. Victor Hocog (Cov-Rota), and Rep. Edwin Aldan (Cov-Tinian).

In the Senate, Sen. Paul Manglona (R-Rota) chairs the three-member conference committee, along with members Sen. Luis Crisostimo (D-Saipan) and Sen. Joseph Mendiola (Cov-Tinian).

Public notices

The Senate, House and all other legislative committees have now been more diligent in informing the public about its upcoming meetings and sessions.

This is to comply with a popular initiative ratified by voters in the Nov. 7 general elections. The initiative, pushed by Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan), applies the Open Government Act to the Legislature effective Dec. 7.

Among other things, the Legislature is now required to have a 72-hour public notice, with agendas, for official sessions and meetings. The Legislature now also has to respond to citizen requests for public records within 10 days. Failure to grant those requests subjects them to penalties.

Besides the Conference Committee meeting on Friday, the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation also issued a public notice yesterday about a delegation meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 22, at 9:30am in the House Chamber on Capital Hill.

The notice included a copy of the agenda and urged the public to submit written or oral comments.

On Dec. 10, the Legislative Bureau also issued a public notice about a Dec. 17, Thursday, meeting of the Senate at 10am.

Judge disqualifies three voters called to testify at 'last minute'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court associate judge David Wiseman yesterday disqualified three more voters for the Northern Islands as the court battle for a single vote in the mayoral race resumed.

The three voters were summoned Monday night to testify by attorney Richard W. Pierce, lawyer for Ramona Taisakan Rebuenog.

Wiseman voided the votes of the three disqualified voters, bringing to 15 the number of voters who have been disqualified. Three voters were upheld.

With the disqualifications, the unofficial vote count now shows Rebuenog ahead of Northern Islands mayor-elect Tobias Dela Cruz Aldan by two votes, 62-60.

Yesterday's last witness was Santiago Saures, an employee of the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Saures testified that he voted in the Nov. 7 election for the Northern Islands so he could get a job later. He said he voted for Aldan.

Saures admitted that his brother is currently employed with the Northern Islands Mayor's Office and is staying at the Northern Islands Guest House on Saipan.

The present mayor is Valentine Taisakan, the brother of Rebuenog.

Rebuenog is a Northern Islands mayoralty candidate who lost to Aldan by a single vote. She filed a lawsuit challenging 21 votes that she alleged were illegal.

Wiseman ordered the continuation of the hearing today, Wednesday at 9:30am.

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NMC names new librarian

The Northern Marianas College has appointed a new academic librarian to assist students, faculty, staff and community members with their research and information needs and to maintain the Olympio T. Borja Memorial Library and its collections.

Adnan Raza, who possesses a juris doctor and a master's degree in Library and Information Science, began working for the college last month.

"We are extremely pleased to welcome Adnan to the NMC team," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. "His wealth of experience and his extensive educational background will be an asset to the college and its students."

Before his stint at NMC, Raza worked as the director of the Learning Resource Center at IIA College in Albuquerque, New Mexico. In this capacity, Raza provided specialized reference assistance using an array of comprehensive databases including Academic Search Premier, Business Source Elite, CINAHL, Lexis Nexis, and Westlaw, along with scores of open access databases covering various fields. He also designed and taught workshops in database searching and information technology literacy.

While in Albuquerque, Raza also worked as a substitute librarian for the Albuquerque/ Bernalillo County Library, where he managed all aspects of library operations including circulation and reference duties at various branches. He has also been a library researcher at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, where he collaborated with professors and doctoral candidates to carry out library research in ethno-botany. His other work experience includes working as a research analyst for community mediation of Baltimore County in Towson, Maryland, and a legal researcher for the Law Offices of Yoko Higuchi in Los Angeles, CA. Raza was also employed as assistant program director for the Los Angeles Center for Education Research, and the manager of Legal Affairs for Cobian GmbH in San Francisco.

"I'm grateful for the opportunity to move to the Marianas and to work for the Northern Marianas College," said Raza. "I look forward to strengthening the college library's role in helping students succeed in their academic training."

Raza's computer experience includes a mastery of Adobe Dreamweaver, HTML, CSS, and the creation of web portals, electronic pathfinders, and webliographies; a proficiency in database searching; and an in-depth practical and theoretical understanding of issues relating to the processing, storage, retrieval, dissemination, and evaluation of electronic media including digital copyright and Digital Rights Management. Raza also has a special interest in digital libraries and took five graduate-level information technology courses during his master's program.

He earned his juris doctor degree from Northeastern University School of Law in Boston, his master's degree from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and his bachelor's degree from the University of California at Irvine. He is a member of the American Library Association and Association of College and Research Libraries. ***(NMC)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Adnan Raza is the new Academic Librarian of the Northern Marianas College.

Woman complains against allegedly abusive husband

A woman has filed a complaint against her husband for allegedly subjecting her and their daughter to physical and verbal abuse whenever he gets drunk.

Conrad M. Manglona, 32, was arrested Friday on Tinian for assault and battery, disturbing the peace, and child abuse.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo on Monday imposed a $500 cash bail plus $9,500 unsecured bond for Manglona's temporary liberty.

Detective Barbara Arend stated in her report that last Dec. 6 at 9:30pm, a police officer reported that Manglona and his wife were fighting at their house on Tinian.

The victim told a responding police officer that during their argument, Manglona grabbed her left arm so hard that it caused bruises.

The victim said it was not the first time Manglona assaulted her. She said her husband drinks alcoholic beverages every day. When drunk, he would allegedly say profanities to their daughter and once grabbed her hair. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

DPS sets sobriety checkpoints on Rota

The Department of Public Safety will be conducting sobriety checkpoints on Rota on Dec. 22, 23, and 26, 2009.

On Dec. 22, the first checkpoint will be held along San Francisco Highway Sonton by the Rota Hotel from 7pm to 8:15p.m. The second will be along San Francisco Highway Guata by the former Donny's Stop n Go, from 9:30pm to 10:45pm. The third will be along San Francisco Highway Sinapalo 2 by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., from 1:30am to 2:45am.

The next day, Dec. 23, the first checkpoint will be along Joe Junior Charfauros Road, from 6pm to 7:15pm. The second will be along San Francisco Highway Tatachog by the Northern Marianas College, from 8:30pm to 9:45pm. The third will be along San Francisco Highway District 1 by the former Midtown Market, from 11:30pm to 12:45am.

On Dec. 26, the first checkpoint will be held in District No. 4 by the Aquarius Night Club, from 7:30pm to 8:45pm. The second will be in Sinapalo 1 by the Latte Poker, from 9:30pm to 10:45pm. The third will be along San Francisco Highway Tatachog, from 11:15pm to 12:30am. The fourth and final checkpoint will be along San Francisco Highway Pinatang, from 1am to 2:15am.

Each checkpoint will last at least 75 minutes (1 hour 15 minutes) at each location.

Police officers will also be doing highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrol, aggressive driver interdictions, and laser activities. Checkpoints are subject to be terminated if it begins to rain. For more information, contact Sergeant Jarrod T. Manglona or Officer Tito S. Hocog at 532-9433. ***(DPS)***

Bangladeshi community marks 'Victory Day' today

The Bangladesh Cultural Group will be celebrating the 38th anniversary of its country's "Victory Day" today, Dec. 16, in Garapan, beside the Bank of Saipan, across the Round Two Bar.

Rakibul Islam "Mintu" of the Bangladesh Cultural Group said the celebration will start at 8:30pm and will feature a cultural program.

According to a wikipedia entry, "Victory Day" or "Bijoy Diwas" is celebrated on Dec. 16 in Bangladesh. On that day in 1971, the 93,000 officers and men of the Pakistan Army surrendered to the Indo-Bangladeshi High Command in Dhaka. Bangladesh gained independence from India after nine months of a long and bloody struggle. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

SHIPPING SCHEDULE

MARIANA EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SENTOSA	030E	12/5 Sat	12/3 Thu	12/3 Thu	12/1 Tue	11/28 Sat	12/11 Fri	12/7 Mon	12/6 Sun	11/29 Sun	11/29 Sun	12/7 Mon	12/11 Fri	12/13 Sun	12/15 Tue
MELL SEMBAWANG	023E	12/12 Sat	12/10 Thu	12/10 Thu	12/8 Tue	12/5 Sat	12/18 Fri	12/14 Mon	12/13 Sun	12/6 Sun	12/6 Sun	12/14 Mon	12/18 Fri	12/20 Sun	12/22 Tue
MELL SERAPONG	002E	12/19 Sat	12/17 Thu	12/17 Thu	12/15 Tue	12/12 Sat	12/25 Fri	12/21 Mon	12/20 Sun	12/13 Sun	12/13 Sun	12/21 Mon	12/25 Fri	12/27 Sun	12/29 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	031E	12/26 Sat	12/24 Thu	12/24 Thu	12/22 Tue	12/19 Sat	1/1 Fri	12/28 Mon	12/27 Sun	12/20 Sun	12/20 Sun	12/28 Mon	1/1 Fri	1/3 Sun	1/5 Tue
MELL SEMBAWANG	024E	1/2 Sat	12/31 Thu	12/31 Thu	12/29 Tue	12/26 Sat	1/8 Fri	1/4 Mon	1/3 Sun	12/27 Sun	12/27 Sun	1/4 Mon	1/8 Fri	1/10 Sun	1/12 Tue
MELL SERAPONG	003E	1/9 Sat	1/7 Thu	1/7 Thu	1/5 Tue	1/2 Sat	1/15 Fri	1/11 Mon	1/10 Sun	1/3 Sun	1/3 Sun	1/11 Mon	1/15 Fri	1/17 Sun	1/19 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA Davao	ETA GenSan	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SENTOSA	030E	SKIP		SKIP	SKIP	SKIP	12/25 Fri	12/27 Sun	SKIP	1/1 Fri	1/2 Sat	1/7 Thu	1/26 Tue	1/10 Sun	1/6 Wed
MELL SEMBAWANG	023E	12/26 Sat	12/27 Sun	12/27 Sun	SKIP	12/30 Wed	1/1 Fri	1/3 Sun	SKIP	1/8 Fri	1/9 Sat	1/14 Thu	2/2 Tue	1/17 Sun	1/13 Wed
MELL SERAPONG	002E	1/2 Sat	1/3 Sun	1/3 Sun	1/5 Mon	1/6 Wed	1/8 Fri	1/10 Sun	SKIP	1/15 Fri	1/16 Sat	1/21 Thu	2/9 Tue	1/24 Sun	1/20 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	031E	1/9 Sat	1/10 Sun	1/10 Sun	SKIP	1/13 Wed	1/15 Fri	1/17 Sun	SKIP	1/22 Fri	1/23 Sat	1/28 Thu	2/16 Tue	1/31 Sun	1/27 Wed
MELL SEMBAWANG	024E	1/16 Sat	1/17 Sun	1/17 Sun	1/19 Mon	1/20 Wed	1/22 Fri	1/24 Sun	SKIP	1/29 Fri	1/30 Sat	2/4 Thu	2/23 Tue	2/7 Sun	2/3 Wed
MELL SERAPONG	003E	1/23 Sat	1/24 Sun	1/24 Sun	1/19 Mon	1/27 Wed	1/29 Fri	1/31 Sun	SKIP	2/5 Fri	2/6 Sat	2/11 Thu	3/2 Tue	2/14 Sun	2/10 Wed

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H1N1 VACCINE SCHOOL VACCINATION CAMPAIGN

PARENTS: TURN IN SIGNED CONSENT FORMS BACK TO SCHOOL BEFORE YOUR CHILD'S VACCINATION DATE

SCHOOL VACCINATION SCHEDULE

December 11th - Friday
Chacha Jr. High School
Hopwood Jr. High School
Tinian Elementary School

December 14th - Monday
Grace Christian Academy
Mount Carmel School
Saipan International School

December 15th - Tuesday
Calvary Christian Academy
Ladera International School
Marianas Baptist Academy
Rota Jr. High School
Saipan Community School

December 16th - Wednesday
Marianas High School
Rota High School

December 17th - Thursday
Kagman High School

December 18th - Friday
Saipan Southern High School

December 21st - Monday
Tinian Jr. & High Schools
(7th-9th Graders)

December 22nd - Tuesday
Tinian High School
(10th – 12th Graders)

December 23rd- Wednesday
St. Joseph School (Tinian)
Grace Christian Academy (Tinian)

Middle and High School students also need to turn in Screening Questionnaire with their signed Consent Forms

Parents can also bring their kids to any health clinic to get vaccinated.

For more information, contact the Department of Public Health at 234-8950 or email fluwatchcnmi@gmail.com.

CDC

ABTC gears up for compliance checks

The Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control Division of the Department of Commerce is gearing up to conduct an island-wide compliance check on all licensed establishments.

The compliance inspections will mainly focus whether the establishments are selling alcoholic beverages and cigarettes to minors.

ABTC HOTLINE
483-1821

"Any violation of law will not be tolerated and will be dealt with accordingly," the division said.

The division is also reminding the public and businesses that it is against the law to sell cigarettes to persons under the age of 18, and it is against the law to sell, give, or serve any alcoholic beverages to persons under the age of 21. It is also against the law for persons under 18 years of age to purchase or possess any tobacco products that include cigarettes, and it is against the law for persons under 21 years of age to buy or drink alcoholic beverages.

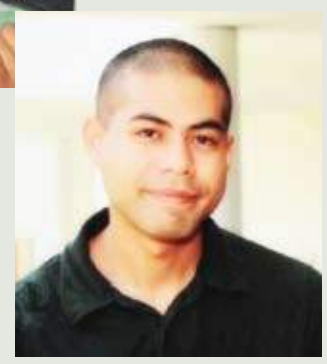
"Underage drinking and smoking is a serious community problem. Therefore, we are calling upon the community's cooperation and involvement to take a stand and join us in partnership in addressing this serious matter together," said division director David R. Maratita.

The division has established a hotline to take community complaints with respect to violations of the ABC laws. To report any violations involving minors consuming alcohol or any establishments selling alcohol or cigarettes to minors, contact 483-1821. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Birthday greetings going out to Hank P. Arurang Jr. who is celebrating his birthday today. Best wishes and may you have many more birthdays to come! We love you! From your loving families.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday greetings go out to Don Andrew! Extra special wishes for an extra special day! May you have much happiness in every single way! Love, your family, friends, and your BANANA Dorks!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

2009 DECEMBER
DRUNK AND DRUGGED DRIVING
PREVENTION (3D) MONTH
SOBRIETY CHECK POINT AHEAD
DRUNK DRIVING
OVER THE LIMIT. UNDER ARREST.
Cops are cracking down.
Chances are you'll get caught and Chances are you can't afford to:
WHAT THAT LAST DRINK CAN COST YOU:
Vehicle towing and storage fee $ 100.00
Car insurance premium fee $ 1,300.00
DUI penalty fee $ 500.00
Reckless Driving $ 250.00
Court fee $ 100.00
DUI classes $ 100.00
Attorney fees $ 2,500.00
Community service 100 hrs.
Missed working days 3 days-1 month
TOTAL $ 4,850.00
Fee based on costs from various locations
No matter how many times you've heard it, there are people who just don't get it - DRINKING AND DRIVING DON'T MIX.
Department of Public Safety
For more information
call 664-9084/85

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Dec.16 1998

Deficit beyond expectation—Sablan

With a record $57 million deficit adding to CNMI's long list of financial woes, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio's special advisor on budget and finance yesterday called for tighter fiscal discipline to keep government expenditures low and contain the deficit. Michael S. Sablan made fresh calls for extreme caution in spending public funds in light of a single audit report released yesterday by Deloitte & Touche which showed a $22.5 million increase in deficit in FY 1997 from the previous fiscal year. Bulk of the deficit, the reports says, was incurred by the office of former governor Froilan C. Tenorio whose actual expenditures exceeded amount budgeted for that fiscal year by $10.09 million.

Legislators raise poker fees by 33%

Saipan lawmakers yesterday voted to increase by 33 percent to $8,000 the license fees for poker and pachinko slot machines on the island in a move to boost government revenues amid worsening economic crisis. In a session, most members of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation passed the local bill seeking additional $2,000 on top of the current fee of $6,000. Only Representatives Karl T. Reyes and Manuel A. Tenorio voted against it. At least $1.5 million will be generated from the proposed fee hike - aside from some $6 million that the cash-strapped government earlier has anticipated to earn from these amusement machines. The measure now heads to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio for signing

Dec. 16 1999

Gov't workers' insurance share to rise 50 percent

Due to skyrocketing costs of medical expenses, the CNMI Group Health Insurance Program will increase by 50 percent the premium contributions pitched in by government employees beginning Jan. 1, 2000. Even if the government cannot come up with an equivalent 50 percent share, NMI Retirement Fund Administrator Juan S. Torres said his office will still adjust the employees' rates. While private health insurance firms have been carrying out increases every year, this will be the second time that the CNMI Group Health Insurance Program will hike its employees' share since 1995.

Fire hits Mt. Carmel Cathedral

A small fire struck Mt. Carmel Cathedral yesterday afternoon, destroying glass windows and portion of the second floor of the 50-year-old church that has become a landmark on Saipan. No one was reported injured, officials said. According to Lt. Ray Villagomez of the Fire Division of the Department of Public Safety, the fire broke out at around 5pm and was declared under control 20 minutes later. Villagomez said it was too early to speculate as to what triggered the blaze that broke the glass windows along the front entrance of the church and portion of windows on the second floor. But he said they are looking at the possibility that it might have started from the candle holders located in front of the wall near the staircase leading to the second floor.

Dec. 16, 2001

Fuel shortage looms on Rota

ROTA, CNMI—With the Commonwealth Utility Corp.'s power plant still down and portions of Sinapalo Village being provided power only by generators from the Rota Resort Hotel, authorities are rushing to restore the damaged fuel pipeline at the eastern port as fuel stocks here are expected to run out in less then 20 days. Mayor Benjamin Manglona urged residents to bear with gas rationing, saying the emergency measure is necessary to prevent another catastrophe for the island. Each car is being limited to a maximum of 10 gallons a week. "We want to prevent a fuel crisis," Manglona said. "Since the Guam facility is on fire, our fuel source will be from Saipan." The island's fuel pipeline needs repair and evaluation to avoid an oil spill, Manglona added.

Can the NMI match FEMA funds?

ROTA, CNMI—The question comes to mind as Mayor Benjamin Manglona disclosed that the estimated damage on the island wrought by supertyphoon Pongsona has now amounted $34 million. For the CNMI to tap into federal money allotted under the presidential disaster declaration, it has to put up 25 percent of any amount that would eventually be allocated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for Rota. Manglona said it might be difficult, however, for the CNMI government to come up with this amount, particularly since the entire Northern Marianas is experiencing an economic slump.

Joeten's Customer Appreciation Sale

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

HAFA-ADAI SHOPPING CENTER, GARAPAN STORE HOUR: 8:00 A.M. TO 11:00 P.M.

Men's Aloha Shirts **30% off**

Men's Polo Shirts and Tee Shirts **30% off**

Men's Shorts Entire Stocks **30% off**

Ladies Dresses **30% off**

Christmas Lights and Decorations **30% off**

Ladies Blouses & Shorts **30% off**

Girls Dresses and Shorts Set **30% off**

Boys Shorts and Sets **30% off**

Boys Shirts **30% off**

Swimming Accessories **25% off**

Housewares **25% off**

Toys and Games **25% off**

Headwear (Entire Stock) **25% off**

Handbags and Wallets **25% off**

School Supplies **25% off**

Sunglasses and Reading Glasses **25% off**

Beach Towel **25% off**

Footwear **25% off**

Ground Beef 10lbs. Tube (Limit 2) **$15.95**

Chicken Drums stick 5lbs. Box **$8.99**

New Zealand Beef Shoulder Steak Family Bag 8lb. **$14.99**

Bar S SLiced Bacon Reg. 6oz. **$2.39**

NZ Beef for Stew 7lb. Bag Limit 1 **$12.95**

US Pork Chop 7lbs. Bag Limit 1 **$9.95**

NZ Mussel 1/2 Shell 1kg/Box **$4.99**

Chicken Leg Quarter 22lbs. (Limit 1) **$15.99/cs.**

Chicken Whole Fryers 30lbs. (Limit 1) **$33.99/cs.**

U.S. Pork Spareribs 3up 20lb. (Limit 1) **$15.95/cs.**

Gusto Smoked ham B-In Foil 19.21lbs. **$1.65/cs.**

Chuckwagon Hotdogs 16oz. **99¢**

Kikkoman Soy Sauce 1.6 Ltr. Limit 6 **$3.89**

ACE of Diamond Tuna Oil 7oz. Limit 12 **99¢**

Palm Corned Beef Regular 12oz. Limit 12 **$2.49**

Hormel Spam 12oz. Limit 12 All Flavor **$2.29**

Tilapia **99¢/lb.**

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Opinion

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Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XIX, Issue No. 300

Published daily at 2/F JP Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Jailing juveniles

The Senate Judiciary Committee should embrace a bill scheduled for debate on Thursday that institutes needed reforms in how the nation deals with youth who run afoul of the law.

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Reauthorization Act does not impose federal strictures on state and local entities, but it provides funds for those that choose to comply with the legislation's guidelines. In this way, the Justice Department, which administers the act, can provide incentives to states to comply with what it considers best practices.

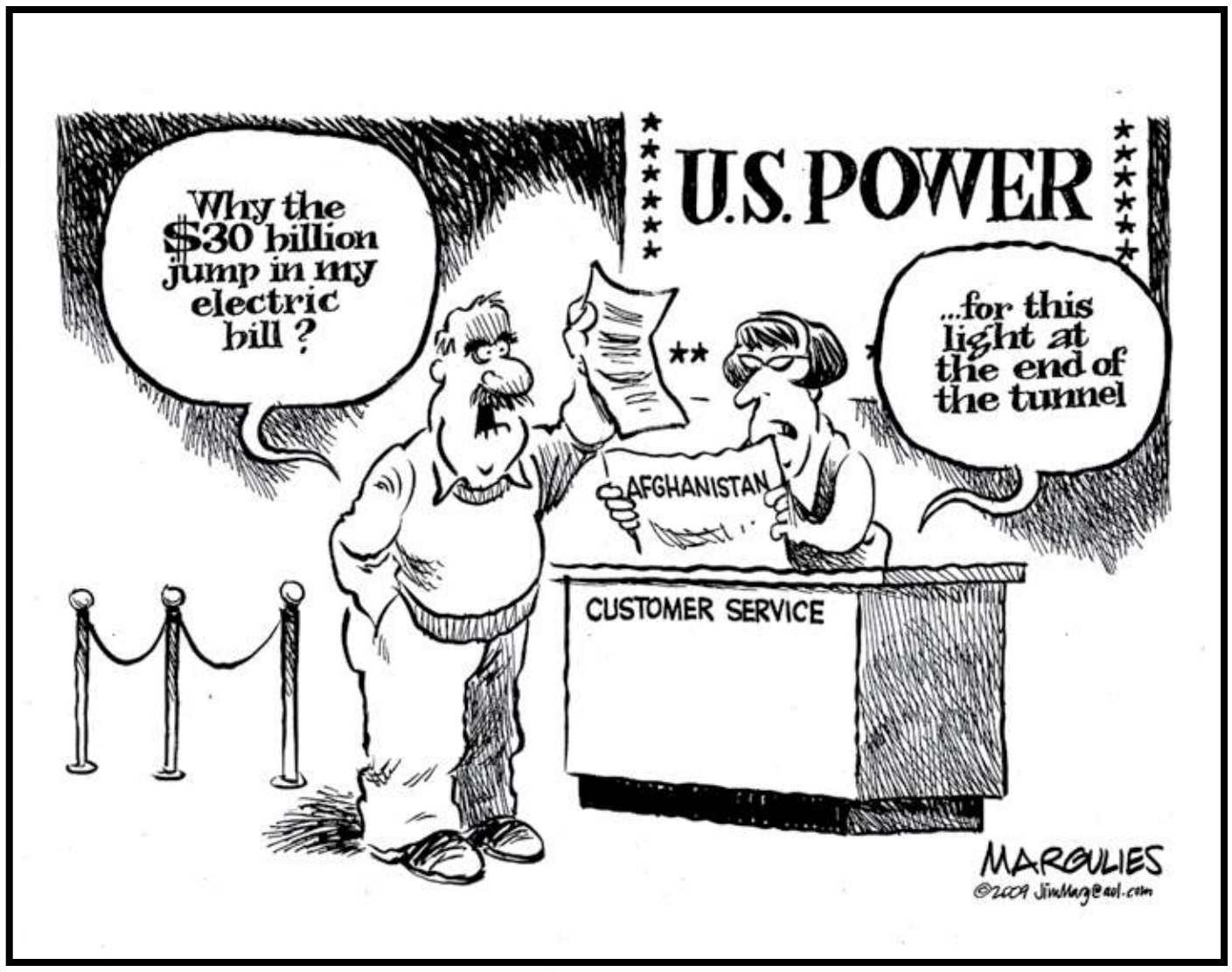
Perhaps the most important provision in the legislation is one that calls on states to keep juveniles—even those charged as adults—separate from alleged adult offenders. Statistics show that juveniles held in adult facilities are more likely to be attacked, more likely to commit crimes once released and more likely to commit suicide than those held in facilities that house only minors. Even so, the act sensibly gives prosecutors and judges some discretion to detain in adult facilities youths who are charged with the most violent crimes and who pose a significant threat to other juveniles. And it makes accommodations for small or rural communities that do not have separate adult and juvenile facilities as long as youth are held out of "sight and sound" from the adults.

The bill rightly encourages states to eliminate the practice of locking up juveniles charged with status offenses, such as truancy or running away from home. Studies have shown that juveniles and communities fare much better when status offenders are redirected to counseling, mentoring or school-based programs. Under the act, states that now allow indefinite detention of status offenders would have three years to revise their policies in order to continue to qualify for federal funds.

The act also calls on states to be aware of and address the growing evidence that African American and Hispanic youths are frequently dealt with more harshly than their white counterparts. For instance, African American and Hispanic juveniles are much more likely to be detained even for minor crimes than are white juveniles and are much more likely to be tried as adults than white youths who are accused of similar crimes. States that receive federal funds would have to keep records of the race and ethnicity of juveniles who come into the system and how they are dealt with and create a plan to eliminate disparate treatment between minority juveniles and white offenders, if such exists.

Funding these new approaches is not cheap, but it is worthwhile. The bill calls for an appropriation of some $245 million for fiscal 2010, increasing to $442 million by fiscal 2015. To ensure that taxpayer dollars are well spent, lawmakers should insist that the periodic progress reports provided by states and an annual assessment by the Justice Department's Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention be made public.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post



The harder the battle

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

The games that we remember most
are those against the best
The matched opponent makes us work
and therein lies our test

The victories we savor most
are those for which we fought
through sweat of brow and tests of will
hard lessons we are taught

The triumphs that we yearn to share
of which we are most proud
are those over arch nemeses
to whom we never bowed

So revel in the game
and view the obstacles as par
a conquest without struggle
never gets you very far

The measure of our mettle
lies in what we must defeat
A victory unchallenged?
well....it's never quite as sweet!

I'm sure you've heard the phrase "The harder the battle, the sweeter the victory." Well, recently, I had the chance to help a friend's 13-year-old daughter with an online math-based mystery/sleuth challenge. We were up until midnight struggling to decipher the clues and compute different values needed to access the various parts of the puzzle in order to find the prize!

When all was clicked and done, I felt a tremendous sense of accomplishment and pride for her, knowing that she was able to solve the assignment and present it in class the next day.

I'm sure that her confidence has been boosted by the experience and that a valuable life lesson regarding the rewards of commitment and perseverance has been indelibly etched in her mind.

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

Along the same line of thought, I was recently reminded by a mentor that every game is defined by three things,

1. an objective,
2. freedoms, and
3. barriers.

Anything of any value that we desire in life, love and the pursuit of happiness has all these elements. Without any individual component, the "game" doesn't quite work. A basketball game, for example, without an objective, or without the freedom to advance on the court, or without an opposing team providing barriers to our advancement, isn't quite a game at all. Our mission in life is to accept that all three elements are necessary for us to really benefit from the challenge. So revel in the freedoms, accept the obstacles, and never, never, never give up on reaching your objective!

Dedicated to Danielle.

■ ■ ■

Note: *Ever wanted to direct your friends and family to a set of websites that said good things about Saipan? Do what I do: send them to www.bestofsaipan.com!*

Note: Fans and followers of the book, *Chicken Feathers and Garlic Skin: Diary of a Chinese Garment Factory Girl on Saipan* may now find copies here on Saipan at Fu Dogs & Qi (pronounced chi), Saipan's only Asian Antiques Store, located on the first floor of the Nauru Building (the "360 building") in Susupe.

■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 15 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. *Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com.*

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The remaining settlement funds from class action lawsuit

By TIMOTHY H. BELLAS
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

There have been many injuries and comments by former garment workers and others related to the residual funds that remain for distribution under what is now called the Garment Workers Trust Fund. While we have responded to several inquiries and letters directly, there is no efficient way to reach all of the interested persons, other than through the media.

I will try to make the explanation as simple as I can, so that it can be understood by the persons I am trying to reach, since many have limited comprehension in the English language. However, in order to understand the matter, I must discuss the historical background of the funds involved.

The Settlement Agreement ("Settlement") was negotiated between the attorneys for the Settlement Class Members ("SCMs") and the attorneys for the garment factories. The terms of the Settlement provided for two distributions of money to be made to SCMs from the Settlement money that was paid by the garment factories. It is important to remember that only SCMs (former garment workers working for certain garment factories involved in the class action suit) were entitled to a distribution of this money. In other words, not every former garment worker was entitled to a payment from the Settlement.

Under the Settlement, the first distribution of money and how much each SCM was to receive was done by the attorneys for the SCMs. These attorneys hired a Northern California firm, called Gilardi & Co., to do computation and distribution of the money. Gilardi developed a computer software program, which they used to determine how much each worker was to receive.

The Settlement provides that after the SCM attorneys make the first distribution, the remaining funds would be transferred to the Garment Oversight Board for a second distribution. The Settlement also provides that only those SCMs who received and cashed the first distribution check would get another check from the GOB.

When the news of the second distribution was reported, many workers contacted the GOB and asked why they were not included in the first distribution. The GOB undertook the investigation of whether these workers could have qualified as SCMs and the GOB determined that there were 332 garment workers still on Saipan who could have qualified as SCMs. The GOB made a request to the U.S. District Court to add the names of these 332 workers to the list of SCMs and this request was granted by the court. The GOB then made a "first" distribution to these 332 workers.

In accordance with the restriction of the Settlement, to send a second check only to those SCMs who cashed the first check, the GOB made a second distribution, to more than 13,000 SCMs.

Once that distribution was completed, the payments to SCMs *were finished*. In other words, the Settlement does not provide for any more payments of any kind to be made to SCMs or any other former garment workers.

At this point, the legal doctrine of *cy pres* came into play. This doctrine has been applied to class action lawsuits by several courts, including the California Supreme Court. The simple explanation of *cy pres* is that when the payments under a class action case are completed and there is still money left over, the court in which the class action case was decided has the authority to distribute the rest of the funds to charity.

Instead of going directly to a general charitable distribution, the GOB proposed that garment workers be included as possible recipients of charitable donations for a one-year period. Judge Munson agreed with this recommendation and as a result the Garment Workers Trust Fund was created. During this one-year period, some of the remaining funds have been used to repatriate several workers back to their country of origin and to pay some urgent medical needs of others. In addition, some are now receiving a donation because they were never able to collect unpaid wages from their former employers.

However, there is no right to these remaining funds by SCMs or any other garment workers under the Settlement; it is entirely up to the court to determine what to do with the remaining funds.

The U.S. District Court has now instructed the Trustees to put together a proposed list of charitable donations for the remaining funds. These are merely recommendations and the judge is free to reject or accept them.

The workers and other persons who have commented on this issue must understand that the trustees do not have any personal interest in how the remaining funds are spent. Their only obligation is to safeguard the funds until the court orders their final distribution.

I hope this explains the situation more fully and resolves some of the misconceptions that seem to be circulating in the community. We hope that by explaining this matter in detail, people will understand that we do not have further discretion on this matter. Therefore, any further discussion or inquiries on this matter will not be entertained.

Timothy H. Bellas is chairman of the Garment Workers Trust Fund and was also the chairman of the Garment Oversight Board, which handled the dispensation of the class action settlement funds.

Letters to the Editor

Remembering our soldiers over the holidays

I was preparing a package of goodies to send to my oldest daughter the other day. As I worked on solutions to get the packages of sembe, milk tea, spicy shrimp chips, and other snacks she misses from home to all fit into the one little box, I couldn't help but wonder about all of the other families doing the exact same thing for their loved ones overseas.

My girl Daizy only recently turned 19, and only a few weeks ago was deployed to Iraq. This war I've watched on television for the last nine years has now touched my home in a way that I never would have imagined. I certainly could never imagine my tiny, shy, unassuming, kind, and kind of goofy daughter sent to the sands of a dangerous desert thousands of miles away from home and completely foreign to her.

In her letters and our weekly phone conversations, she does her best to alleviate my anxieties about her safety, by telling me she's in one of the safest places one could be. Somehow I doubt that "Forward Operating Base Warrior" in Kirkuk, Iraq, is "one of the safest places one could be." I remember 19, and how something as simple as an upcoming job interview had me anxious and nervous for days. I could not imagine the weight on my shoulders knowing I would be leaving my friends, family, and comfort and safety, for a forward combat base in a country I hardly knew anything about. But she is valiant in her effort to try to disguise her situation in order to ease my mind. I don't know if I would have been so brave at the young age of 19.

As families with loved ones overseas and in harm's way might understand, many of the activities of the family do not seem complete, especially during the holiday season. There is always a vacancy at the table, and the usual things like taking family photos and gift opening do not seem the same without them. It almost seems wrong to take the family photo without them. "We should wait for her return," I often think. I guess families have their different ways of coping with these issues. In our case, it is trying to keep in touch through letters and e-mail as much as possible, many times exchanging even insignificant details about what things are going on in our lives. I also find myself often talking about her to her youngest sister Arro who just turned 3 years old. It's become a duty of mine to make sure that while her sister is gone, at her young age, she doesn't forget her. So we often walk around and go over the photos of Daizy and family that are hung on our walls, and placed on our shelves. "Is Daizy coming tomorrow?" she often asks. "Tomorrow" to her meaning any number of days in the future. "Yes, as soon as she gets a break from work", I respond.

Many of our fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, sons, and daughters will be away from home this Christmas, serving in far off posts in Iraq, Afghanistan and other countries. Whatever your feelings about the wars might be, those who serve are a dedicated group, who valiantly and heroically carry out this dangerous work on our behalf. While we enjoy our Christmas dinners, the company of friends and family, and our relative comfort and safety, we should take some time to remember all of those men and women, boys and girls, who aren't home this Christmas.

To the Red Cross, Rotary Club, the many teachers and students, Office of Military and Veterans Affairs, and many other individuals and organizations out there who take the time to put together care packages, and write letters and cards, and see to the needs of our many soldiers, this father thanks you very much.

Robert Hunter
San Antonio, Saipan

Impartial hiring

I agree that local residents in the CNMI should indeed be given priority for local jobs. However, qualifications in terms of experience, education, and attitude should still be the greatest factor to consider when hiring people.

Let's say that there is a job opening that a local and a foreign worker both apply for. Given that both of them have almost equal qualifications, then it is the local resident who should be awarded the job. However, if the foreign worker is significantly more qualified than the local, the foreign worker should get the job.

If you have ever managed your own company, then you should know that you only want to hire the best people. There is a saying that a company is 90 percent its people and 10 percent its products. If we start giving conditions to these companies, dictating whom they should hire, and forcing them to hire people that they deem not qualified, then our tendency is to scare them off, close them down, lose the available jobs, and make the economy worse.

I have many friends in the CNMI who are local residents of the islands. I asked around for their opinion why most companies do not want to hire locals, and needless to say, they only stated the obvious. There is an existing stereotype that works against locals. They are thought to be lazy workers. They are said to come to work late, complain a lot, make a lot of absences and excuses, and want to be immediately placed in a high position despite their lack of experience and education. To add up to this, many have bad habits like chewing betel nut and spitting almost anywhere. On top of it all, companies are required to pay them significantly higher wages compared to foreign workers.

If locals want companies to favor them, they should probably clean up their act and start pointing this stereotype in the right direction. I know a lot of locals who would not hire their fellow locals and prefer foreign workers, reasoning out that foreign workers can do the job better and cheaper. I am not claiming that foreign workers are always the perfect man for the job. I have nothing against a local with the proper qualification and attitude to win a job over a competing foreign worker of equal qualifications. Likewise, I have nothing against a company that would only hire foreign workers because of the absence of locals that would qualify for the job. To abolish foreign workers and put restrictions on which workers companies should or should not hire will only bring about further economic turmoil.

Let's face it. If we love the CNMI, and want it to progress and flourish, a good starting point would be for the companies to start hiring the right people, and for us the citizens and the government to help them accomplish this task. To hire based mainly on qualifications and not based on connections, citizenship, color, or any other insignificant factors—to hire objectively and not subjectively. Let us work together and bring progress and prosperity to the CNMI.

Jose Hinaro Lim
Dandan, Saipan

Biba Taga Riders

Last Dec. 11, 2009, the Taga Riders did not forget to treat the *man'amko* to lunch and at the same time give Christmas gifts and a $700 check donation for the *man'amko*. They also gave us newly minted Northern Mariana Islands commemorative quarter coins as souvenirs.

The Taga Riders changed the image of motorcycle gangs in the U.S., as we see on TV. Most people fear these gangs and hide if they see them on the streets. But here on Saipan, the Taga Riders are different because once you see them, you can wave your hand to greet them and you get excited when you hear the sound of their bikes. Besides giving donations, you can rely on them in emergency situations.

Biba Taga Riders and Merry Christmas, especially to your founder, "Mr. Pogi" Jorge Camacho! May the blessings of our Lord be with you guys and may you continue to ride safely! *Si yu'us ma'ase.*

Teddy Guaio
Navy Hill, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°

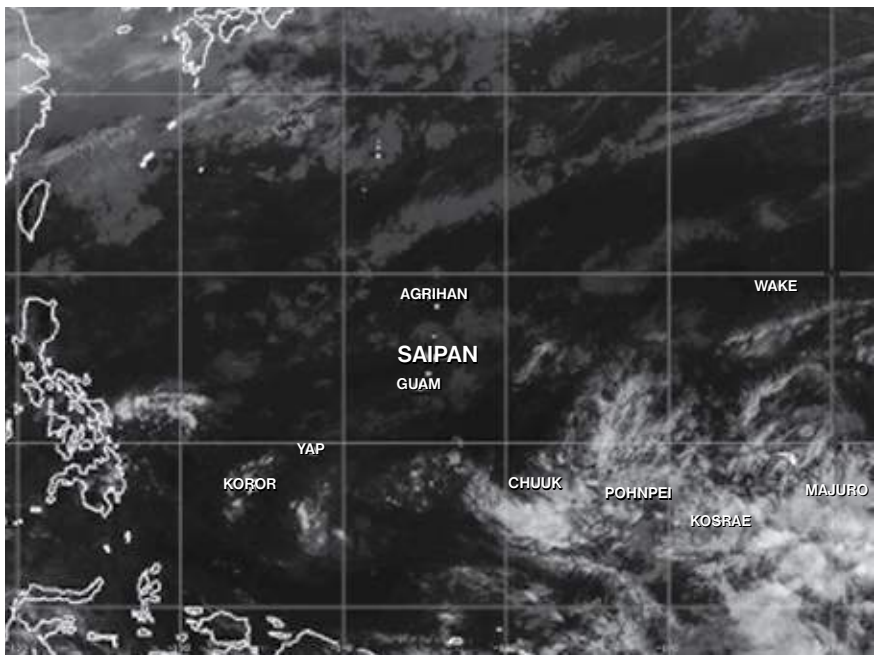
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲83	▼77
Palau	Showers	▲87	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Rain	▲89	▼78
Pohnpei	Rain	▲85	▼76
Kosrae	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲84	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲64	▼57
Beijing	Cloudy	▲30	▼14
Hong Kong	Rain	▲64	▼61
Honolulu	Showers	▲80	▼69
London	Rain	▲39	▼30
Los Angeles	Partly Sunny	▲70	▼48
Manila	Cloudy	▲86	▼73
Melbourne	Showers	▲101	▼67
Miami	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼69
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲39	▼27
Osaka	Cloudy	▲46	▼30
Paris	Sunny	▲31	▼23
Pusan	Sunny	▲37	▼20
Rome	Cloudy	▲49	▼36
Salem	Rain	▲50	▼40
San Francisco	Rain	▲58	▼45
Seoul	Sunny	▲30	▼21
Tokyo	Showers	▲51	▼38
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲43	▼26

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line stretches southwestward from 25N150E to end near 18N135E with scattered showers within 75 miles of the line. Another shear line extends southwestward from 25N170E to end near Saipan at 16N146E with scattered showers within 75 miles of the line. A surface trough southeast of Palau extends from 6N139E to 4N139E with scattered shower within 60 miles of the trough. Trade-wind convergence and upper-level divergence are causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms in a large area from Chuuk eastward across Pohnpei, Kosrae, Majuro, and Tarawa in a large area from 7N148E to 9N160E to 8N180 to 2N180 to EQ170E to EQ165E back to 8E148E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:28 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
8:48 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
1:55 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet
6:25 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:36 AM	5:49 PM
Thursday	6:36 AM	5:50 PM
Friday	6:37 AM	5:50 PM
Saturday	6:37 AM	5:51 PM
Sunday	6:37 AM	5:51 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:09 PM	5:32t AM
Thursday	7:01 PM	6:25 AM
Friday	7:50 PM	7:18 AM
Saturday	8:34 PM	8:09 AM
Sunday	9:15 PM	8:58 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 12, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW287	6:00am	7:30pm	Daily via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW297	4:45pm	7:30pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	1:30am+1	1, 5 via PUS
C09603/933	3:15pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:10am	3:45am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:00am	2:30am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:00am	2:30am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09598	2:00am	3:45am	5, 6 via ROP
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW288	12:05pm	1:20am+1	Daily via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW298	10:05am	2:50pm	Daily
NW288	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ716/605	12:30am	2:20pm	4 via ICN
OZ706/607	3:35am	2:10am+1	4, 7 via PUS
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1 via ICN	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1 via GUM	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

NMC students visit Guam's high-tech crime lab

The Criminal Justice Student Organization of the Northern Marinas College returned to Saipan over the weekend after taking a firsthand look at the Guam Police Department Lab.

The multi-million dollar crime lab facility is fully equipped with state-of-the art crime and forensics laboratory equipment used by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Three most recent cases on Saipan—the Kannat Tabla shooting rampage, the Marianas High School murder of a security guard, and a rape case—are presently being examined at the Mangilao lab.

The students were also welcomed Thursday by the University of Guam's dean of Public Administration and Legal Studies Program, Dr. Ron McNinch, who told the visiting NMC delegation that Criminal Justice students are expected to exhibit a high degree of standards and moral behavior in the community.

"My department maintains zero tolerance criminal acts by every student at UOG," McNinch said. "Every student must sign an effective immediate declaration that they will uphold the law and be free from any criminal act as long as they are in the program."

On the same day, the students visited the Guam Police Department's Juvenile and Detective divisions.

On Friday, the students visited the Guam Community College where they met with the dean of Social Science and Criminal Justice, Joey Munoz, who briefed the students about GCC's criminal justice programs and its ongoing programs for the Guam police, customs and marshals.

GCC also has its own target range for all of government of Guam's law enforcement agencies.

The students also toured Guam's Juvenile Correctional Facility, which houses 50 of Guam's delinquent juveniles in Mangilao.

The students also visited the Guam Supreme Court and were welcomed by Guam Chief Justice Robert Torres. The students were excited to have their picture taken with Torres on the bench. They also visited Guam Superior Court's Marshals office and the Office of Adult Probation. At the end of the day, the students participated in the Christmas Tree lighting ceremony in the lobby of the Superior Court courtrooms.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A group photo of NMC's Criminal Justice Student Organization in their recent trip to Guam. This particular photo was taken at the Guam Police Department's Crime Lab where students learned about DNA testing, fingerprint matches, sketches of suspects, crash scene replays and much more.

The students were accompanied by NMC's Criminal Justice program adviser and CJSO adviser Judy Dlg. Torres, JD and Jack U. Palacios, adjunct instructor. CJSO is headed by Tony A. Benavente, president; Christine Lely, vice president; and Chrislaine Lely, secretary/treasurer,.

Benavente said, the trip was very successful and he looks forward to seeing more field trips in the future. "Foremost of all, I would like to thank all the generous supporters, especially all that have bought hot lunches from us and to all the motorists who gave away their last coins and bills during a series of our penny drive on Beach Road in San Jose. I would also like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Jack Sn. Camacho and Frank Sn. Camacho who prepared our two hot lunches. Also, to the Torres brothers, and especially senator-elect Ralph Torres and Senate President Pete P. Reyes for their enormous support; and also to the Samoan community." ***(PR)***

IT&E
Life in Motion

Systems Administrator Positions

IT&E is looking for qualified Systems Administrators to work in our Information Management Department. Applicants must have the following qualifications:

Systems Administrator - Call Control

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science (or related field) or 4 years database work experience
- Minimum 4 years of progressive experience in PC and LAN/WAN networks
- Minimum 2 years of progressive experience in Windows Server operating and Microsoft Accessor equivalent database experience
- Unix/Linux experience, and knowledge of FoxPro and C programming desired
- Must be willing to provide on-call support as needed
- Effective communication skills

Systems Administrator - Network LAN/WAN

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science (or related field) or 4 years network experience
- Minimum 4 years of progressive experience in LAN/WAN networks and Windows Server operating systems
- Minimum 2 years of progressive experience in network equipment to include routers, switches, firewalls in support of data/voice communications
- Unix/Linux experience desired
- Must be willing to provide on-call support as needed
- Effective communication skills

Human Resource Office
IT&E
P. 0. Box 500306
Saipan, MP 96950
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IT&E is an Equal Employment Opportunity Affirmative Action Employer. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. Application must be received by IT&E Human Resources on or before December 18, 2009.

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New carrier berth part of Guam military expansion

By GIDGET FUENTES
STAFF WRITER
NAVY TIMES

SAN DIEGO—Navy officials want to build a deep-draft wharf in Guam's main harbor that would better accommodate nuclear-powered aircraft carriers when they visit.

The new berth at Polaris Point, on the eastern side of Apra Harbor, is part of the military's plan to expand naval waterfront facilities, build expeditionary training ranges on the nearby island of Tinian and house a large military force, including 8,600 Marines who will shift to Guam from Okinawa.

Navy officials outlined the plans in a draft environmental impact statement that analyzes the environmental effects of the planned military buildup in the island archipelago. Officials studied 16 sites around Apra, Guam's seaport along the central-western coast.

The final EIS will be completed by summer after a series of public hearings in the Mariana Islands in January.

The berth, plus associated pierside support, would allow a carrier to spend more days in port in Guam, where the military is bolstering its forces in the western Pacific region. The Navy wants to support a carrier as many as 63 "visit days" each year, a jump from the average of 16 days at the existing Kilo Wharf. The existing pier can support carriers, but not for extended periods.

Officials chose Polaris Point to be the carrier wharf, with the nearby former ship repair facility as the main alternate site. The 1,325-foot wharf would be built of steel or concrete pile.

The Navy's plans don't include a carrier maintenance facility, and no refueling of the ship's nuclear reactors would be done in the harbor.

"Aircraft carrier maintenance and repairs would not be done on Guam," the report states. However, repair teams would travel to Guam for unscheduled, emergent repairs or emergency maintenance when needed.

The plans are part of a broader expansion of military forces in the Mariana Islands, including:

■ The shift of 8,600 Marines with III Marine Expeditionary Force and 9,000 family members from Okinawa, along with the addition of 1,800 Defense Department civilian workers.

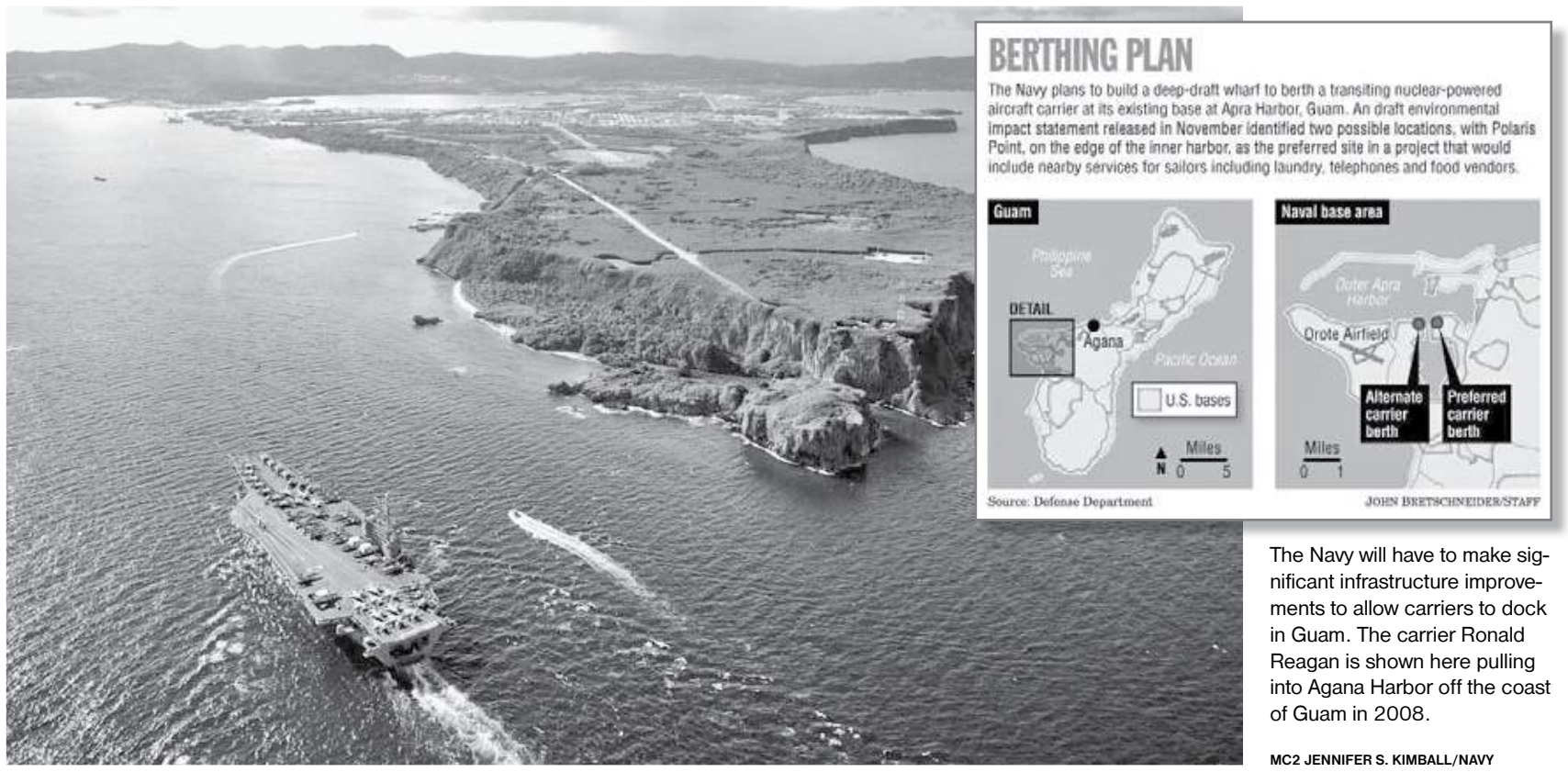
■ The construction of expeditionary training ranges on Tinian, a sparsely populated small island 100 miles north of Guam.

■ The establishment of an Army Air and Missile Defense Task Force, including 600 soldiers and 900 family members, and construction of munitions storage and other facilities.

The moves are expected to cost $13 billion by the time they are completed in 2020, with the government of Japan providing up to $6 billion under an existing cost-sharing arrangement.

The plan would more than double the military presence on Guam, whose population of 178,000 includes an existing military population that would grow from 15,000 to 39,000 by 2020, according to Government Accountability Office estimates.

Military officials have scheduled six public hearings in January on the planned changes, but you'll have to travel to Guam, Tinian or Saipan to attend those sessions. Comments on the proposal also can be submitted online at www.guambuildupeis.us until Feb. 17.


BERTHING PLAN
The Navy plans to build a deep-draft wharf to berth a transiting nuclear-powered aircraft carrier at its existing base at Apra Harbor, Guam. An draft environmental impact statement released in November identified two possible locations, with Polaris Point, on the edge of the inner harbor, as the preferred site in a project that would include nearby services for sailors including laundry, telephones and food vendors.
Guam
Philippine Sea
DETAIL
Agana
Pacific Ocean
U.S. bases
Miles
N 0 5
Naval base area
Outer Apra Harbor
Orote Airfield
Alternate carrier berth
Preferred carrier berth
Miles
0 1
Source: Defense Department
JOHN BRETSCHNEIDER/STAFF

The Navy will have to make significant infrastructure improvements to allow carriers to dock in Guam. The carrier Ronald Reagan is shown here pulling into Agana Harbor off the coast of Guam in 2008.

MC2 JENNIFER S. KIMBALL/NAVY

Report: Japan delays decision on future of US base

TOKYO (AP)—Media reports Tuesday said Japan has delayed until next year a decision on the relocation of a major US military base on the southern island of Okinawa that's at the center of a growing row between Tokyo and Washington.

Kyodo News Agency said Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama had put off a decision on the future of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, attributing unnamed government sources, while the mass circulation newspaper Asahi Shimbun said the decision had been postponed until May.

Spokesmen from the prime minister's office, Foreign Ministry and Defense Ministry could not confirm the reports.

The dispute over Futenma has strained ties between the two allies and trading partners, and the U.S. had hoped for a decision by year-end.

According to a 2006 agreement between Japan and the U.S. to reorganize American troops in Japan, Futenma was to be moved to a less crowded part of northern Okinawa, but Hatoyama has said the relocation site could be changed—perhaps even off the island.

AP

Japanese Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada, center, visits Camp Foster in Okinawa, Japan, during his inspection tour Saturday, Dec. 5, 2009.

Okinawa residents complain about base-related noise, pollution and crime, and many want the airfield closed and its functions moved off the island entirely.

The 2006 reorganization plan, made under the previous conservative Tokyo government, was aimed at lightening the load on Okinawa, which hosts more than half the 47,000 U.S. troops in Japan under a security pact.

Part of the plan involved moving about 8,000 Marines from Okinawa to the U.S. territory of Guam by 2014, but the U.S. military says that plan cannot move forward until Futenma's replacement facility is finalized.

Hatoyama, whose party came to power in a landslide election in August, has promised that Tokyo would adopt a less subservient relationship with Washington, but has also stressed that the U.S. security alliance was the cornerstone of Japan's diplomacy.

His Cabinet is divided and has sent mixed signals on what to do about the future of Futenma. The leader of a left-leaning junior coalition partner has hinted her party would withdraw from the government if the base is moved to Nago.

Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada and Defense Minister Toshimi Kitazawa have said it would be difficult to find a site not on the island, and have suggested honoring the current agreement. Kitazawa visited Guam recently to check out other options, but warned that pushing for a major change in the plan would hurt trust between the two allies.

Open skies agreement benefits Guam

Haneda to open up to US carriers

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Rep. Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) congratulated the negotiators of the U.S. government and the government of Japan who have reached concurrence on an "Open Skies" agreement between both countries.

An "Open Skies" agreement sets liberal ground rules for airline service between any countries in the agreement. The agreement creates free market competition by lifting any restrictions on international route rights including the number of airlines, the types of aircrafts that fly the routes and their frequency of flights. An "Open Skies" agreement can also allow airlines to enter into codesharing or leasing arrangements with other airlines of either country.

In particular, the "Open Skies" agreement will open up several slots at Haneda International Airport to flights to and from the United States.

Guam's visitor industry stakeholders had requested Bordallo's assistance in opening Haneda to U.S. carriers, and she raised this issue in a recent meeting with Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. She requested that U.S. airlines be granted access to Haneda and that this issue should be a central point of negotiations in any "Open Skies" agreement.

"I commend the U.S. State Department and the U.S. Department of Transportation on the Open Skies aviation agreement between the United States and Japan," said Bordallo. "The new agreement will be good for consumers in the United States and Japan. In particular, opening Haneda International Airport to U.S. carriers may benefit our tourism industry on Guam." ***(PR)***

Interior's Babauta to visit Guam anew

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Tony Babauta will visit Guam from Thursday, Dec. 17, through Monday, Dec. 21, for a series of meetings with Gov. Felix Camacho and other government of Guam officials.

Babauta

In a notice issued by the Interior Department's Office of Insular Affairs, it said that Babauta will meet Thursday with Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood to discuss the Guam receiver for the Ordot Dump. He will then visit the Ordot Dump itself.

On Friday, Dec. 18, Babauta will attend a briefing at Anderson Air Force Base and a tour of the University of Guam Water and Environmental Institute drill sites.

On Sunday, Dec. 20, he will deliver the keynote address at the University of Guam's commencement ceremony.

Babauta will finally meet with Camacho on Monday, Dec. 21, followed by a ribbon cutting ceremony for Allied Health Center. ***(OIA)***

Business

Obama implores top bankers to increase lending

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama implored top bankers Monday to help keep the fragile recovery from faltering by boosting lending to small businesses and getting behind an overhaul of financial regulation. "We rise and fall together," Obama declared.

In response to the president's burst of populist jawboning, some banks pledged to increase loans and exercise more self-control over outsized compensation. But the full impact of Obama's intervention was hard to gauge: The government is losing leverage as major banks repay bailout loans.

Obama's lecture to the bankers was also part of a broader election-season Democratic effort to tie sluggish bank lending to continued high joblessness—and to try to tie the banking industry to Republican efforts against Obama's financial overhaul legislation.

AP

President Barack Obama meets with members of the financial industry in the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington, Monday, Dec. 14, 2009, to discuss the economic recovery.

It's a tough balancing act, given past contributions of big banks to Democratic as well as Republican candidates.

Obama called his message a simple one: "America's banks received extraordinary assistance from American taxpayers to rebuild their industry, and now that they're back on their feet, we expect an extraordinary commitment from them to help rebuild our economy."

He urged bankers to "explore every responsible way" to boost lending and to "take a third and fourth look" at every loan application.

The bankers said they got the message.

But they also insisted they are getting conflicting messages from Washington when the do try to make more loans.

Fed is expected to leave rates at record low

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Federal Reserve is expected to leave interest rates at a record low this week, aiming to induce consumers and businesses to borrow and spend and bolster the economic recovery.

The big question is whether Chairman Ben Bernanke and his colleagues will give hints about when they will reverse course and start boosting rates.

A decision to raise rates is still months away. But plans for reeling in the unprecedented amount of money the Fed has plowed into the economy is likely to dominate its private discussions Tuesday and Wednesday. The Fed is expected to announce its policy decisions on Wednesday afternoon.

The central bank faces a high-stakes challenge: If it removes the stimulus too soon, it could short-circuit the recovery. But if it moves too late, it could unleash inflation or new speculative asset bubbles. Each scenario could feed a fresh economic crisis.

Bernanke, who's seeking a second term as Fed chief, has made clear his No. 1 task is sustaining the fragile recovery. Last week, he and other Fed officials signaled they are in no rush to start raising rates.

At the same time, Bernanke has sought to assure skeptical lawmakers and investors that when the time is right, he's prepared to sop up all the money.

Some encouraging signs for the economy have emerged lately. The nation's unemployment rate dipped to 10 percent in November, from 10.2 percent in October. And layoffs have slowed. Employers cut just 11,000 jobs last month, the best showing since the recession started two years ago.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Dubai's $10B bailout by Abu Dhabi calms fears

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Oil-rich Abu Dhabi pumped $10 billion into its indebted neighbor Monday, sending stocks soaring while sparing Dubai and the rest of the Emirates federation the humiliation of an imminent default by one of the struggling Arab boomtown's star companies. The bailout was about more than petrodollar transfers from one United Arab Emirates sheikdom to the other. Dubai officials seized on the news to try to repair damage done by weeks of uncertainty stemming from their unwillingness to fully stand behind Dubai World as the conglomerate looked to restructure some of its $60 billion in debts. Investors cheered Monday's news. Dubai's main index shot up 10.4 percent at the close and markets elsewhere rose modestly.

Citigroup, Wells Fargo repay gov't bailout funds

NEW YORK (AP)—The last two major national banks are returning $45 billion in aid to taxpayers, marking the latest step toward recovery for the U.S. financial system. Citigroup Inc., whose future looked uncertain at the beginning of this year, will repay $20 billion, while Wells Fargo & Co. will pay back the $25 billion it received. Both banks announced significant capital raises in order to repay the money, and the government will also sell the one-third stake it holds in Citigroup. The move frees the two from the close regulatory scrutiny that accompanied aid from the Troubled Asset Relief Program, which the government put in place at the height of the financial crisis in the fall of 2008. The Treasury Department said that of the $245 billion given to banks under TARP, more than $185 billion will have been repaid including the money from Citigroup and Wells Fargo.

Oil creeps toward $70 in Asia after 9-day drop

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices crept toward $70 a barrel Tuesday in Asia after dropping the last nine days on investor doubts about a recovery in U.S. crude demand. Benchmark crude for January delivery was up 36 cents to $68.87 at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. On Monday, the contract fell 36 cents to settle at $69.51. Crude is down about 13 percent since reaching its 2009 high of $82 a barrel in October amid signs that demand for oil and its products remains weak.

COMMONWEALTH ZONING BOARD

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

To Participate in Zoning Office's Island-Wide Junk Car Removal & Recycling Program

The Zoning Office is interested in receiving Expressions of Interest for the removal of junk vehicles by qualified towing and recycling operations. Responding companies must be willing to pick up any and all junk vehicles identified and processed by the Zoning Office at no charge to the CNMI government. It is estimated that there are as many as 18,000 junk vehicles on the island of Saipan.

All companies wishing to register for this program must have a valid recycling permit from the CNMI Division of Environmental Quality.

Please include in your Expression of Interest a description of your firm's operations, permits and number of vehicles that can be taken per month. Interested companies need to be willing to take large and small vehicles in any condition.

The Zoning Office will take every qualified company that submits an Expression of Interest, but reserves the right not to select any of the responding companies for the program. The Zoning Office will publish the approved list of the selected company or companies and advise the public of the start of the program, which is anticipated to begin in January. The Zoning Office will provide an equal number of vehicles to each approved company on a rotating schedule to be determined.

Submissions should be clearly marked "Expression of Interest – Junk Car Removal"

Format of submission

- On 8 1/2" x 11" on company letterhead
- One electronic file version in PDF, MS Word or MS PowerPoint format, by email to staff@zoning.gov.mp (use subject line: "Junk Vehicle Program")

Where and when to submit and questions

Address your questions, the Expression of Interest and other correspondence to:

Hand Delivery: Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan
US Mail: Zoning Office, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
E-mail: staff@zoning.gov.mp

Attn: Junk Vehicle Program.

Proposals must be received at the Zoning Office by 3:00 pm, Friday, January 4th , 2010.

/s/ Herminia M. Fusco, Chair

Saipan, Tinian and Rota!
SATURDAY morning, December 19, for a fun-filled walk with PSS!
Join us this
LIVE HEALTHY:
Life Walk
with
PSS
Registration Information:
Saipan: 5:30 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. – 13 Fishermen
Tinian: 5:30 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. – Tachonga Beach
Rota: 5:30 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. – Tétoto Beach

Nation

Dems weigh dropping Medicare expansion in overhaul

WASHINGTON (AP)—The end game at hand, Senate Democrats appeared ready to jettison a proposed Medicare expansion from historic health care legislation Monday in hopes of assuring Christmas-week passage of the bill to extend coverage to tens of millions.

"Democrats aren't going to let the American people down," Majority Leader Harry Reid said after a closed-door meeting called to discuss last-minute trade-offs in the legislation that President Barack Obama has made a top priority. "I'm confident that by next week, we will be on our way toward final passage."

AP

In this Thursday, Dec. 10, 2009 file photo, from left, Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., Sen. Joseph Lieberman, I-Conn., and Sen John Kerry D-Mass., take part in a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Liberals sought the Medicare expansion as a last-minute substitute for a full-blown, government-run insurance program that moderates earlier insisted be jettisoned. But it drew strong opposition from Sen. Joe Lieberman, I-Conn., and quieter concerns from a dozen Democrats—all of whose votes are essential for Democrats to overcome implacable Republican opposition.

"Put me down tonight as encouraged about the direction these talks are going," Lieberman said less than 24 hours after he rattled Democrats with his threat to join side with Republican opponents unless he got his way.

Reid did not say flatly that Democrats had decided to drop the proposal for uninsured Americans as young as 55 to purchase coverage under Medicare. But several senators said it appeared inevitable, and liberals sounded resigned to it. "I want to see health care reform," Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, said.

One official said participants at the meeting broke into applause when Sen. Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, who switched parties earlier in the year, said he had made his move to become the 60th vote for health care.

And with all Democratic senators invited to meet with Obama at the White House complex on Tuesday, that appeared a prime opportunity for him to join his guests in a display of unity.

The overall measure, costing nearly $1 trillion over a decade, is designed to expand coverage and ban the insurance industry practice of denying coverage on the basis of pre-existing medical conditions. Obama also has urged Congress to slow the rate of growth in health care spending nationally, and several days after Reid submitted a package of revisions, lawmakers awaited final word from the Congressional Budget Office on that point.

22 million missing Bush White House e-mails found

WASHINGTON (AP)—Computer technicians have found 22 million missing White House e-mails from the administration of President George W. Bush and the Obama administration is searching for dozens more days' worth of potentially lost e-mail from the Bush years, according to two groups that filed suit over the failure by the Bush White House to install an electronic record keeping system.

The two private groups—Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington and the National Security Archive—said Monday they were settling the lawsuits they filed against the Executive Office of the President in 2007.

It will be years before the public sees any of the recovered e-mails because they will now go through the National Archives' process for releasing presidential and agency records. Presidential records of the Bush administration won't be available until 2014 at the earliest.

The tally of missing e-mails, the additional searches and the settlement are the latest development in a political controversy that stemmed from the Bush White House's failure to install a properly working electronic record keeping system. Two federal laws require the White House to preserve its records.

The two private organizations say there is not yet a final count on the extent of missing White House e-mail and there may never be a complete tally.

AP sources: Ill. prison to get some Gitmo detainees

WASHINGTON (AP)—Taking an important step on the thorny path to closing the U.S. detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, the White House plans to announce Tuesday that the government will acquire an underutilized state prison in rural Illinois to be the new home for a limited number of terrorist suspects held at Guantanamo.

Administration officials as well as Illinois Sen. Richard Durbin and Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn will make an official announcement at the White House.

Officials from both the White House and Durbin's office confirmed that President Barack Obama had directed the government to acquire Thomson Correctional Center in Thomson, Ill., a sleepy town near the Mississippi River about 150 miles from Chicago. The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity to avoid pre-empting Tuesday's announcement.

A Durbin aide said the facility would house federal inmates and no more than 100 detainees from Guantanamo Bay.

ACROSS THE NATION

Oregon rescuers race clock in search for hikers

GOVERNMENT CAMP, Ore. (AP)—As a winter storm barreled toward Mount Hood, rescuers raced to find two experienced climbers missing for four days on Oregon's highest peak. A military Black Hawk helicopter spent Monday scanning the upper reaches of the mountain as ground teams fanned out below. But the desperate search ended for the day as darkness fell and the storm approached. "No sign at all," said Monty Smith, a member of the Portland Mountain Rescue team who was aboard the helicopter. Bad weather has hampered the search for Anthony Vietti, 24, of Longview, Wash., and Katie Nolan, 29, of Portland, who have been missing since Friday. Overnight temperatures have dipped into the teens with moderate winds and intermittent snow.

Feds: Chicago suspect knew of Mumbai attack

CHICAGO (AP)—A Chicago man accused of planning a terrorist attack against a Danish newspaper knew in advance about a plot to attack Mumbai and offered congratulations to the killers afterward, federal prosecutors charged Monday. In papers filed in federal court in Chicago, prosecutors said Tahawwur Hussain Rana learned an attack was about to happen while traveling in Dubai days before the Nov. 26, 2008, attack in India that left 166 people dead. Rana, a 48-year-old Chicago businessman, is charged with providing material support to terrorists. Prosecutors said after the Mumbai attacks, he told an alleged coconspirator, 49-year-old David Coleman Headley, to pass along his congratulations to the terrorist group for its excellent planning and preparation. "Rana was told of the attacks before they happened and offered compliments and congratulations to those who carried them out afterwards," Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel Collins wrote in the court filing.

Report: Doctor being investigated in PED probe

NEW YORK (AP)—A Canadian doctor who has treated golfer Tiger Woods, swimmer Dara Torres and NFL players is suspected of providing athletes with performance-enhancing drugs, according to a newspaper report. The New York Times reported on its Web site Monday night that Dr. Anthony Galea was found with human growth hormone and Actovegin, a drug extracted from calf's blood, in his bag at the U.S.-Canada border in late September. He was arrested Oct. 15 in Toronto by Canadian police. Using, selling or importing Actovegin is illegal in the United States.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Rehabilitation Council
PO Box 501521 Saipan, MP 96950, TEL.: (670) 322-6537/8 FAX: (670) 322-6536
TTY (670) 322-6449 EMAIL: voc.rehab@saipan.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to CMC §9910, the State Rehabilitation Council will hold its FY 2010 1st Quarter General Membership Meeting Friday December 18, 2009 Giovanni's, Hyatt 9:00 a.m.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Items
 A. Roll Call
 B. Review & adoption of Agenda
 C. Review & adoption of 5/21/09 & 9/25/09 Minutes

II. Reports
 A. OVR Director
 B. SRC Chairman

III. Old Business
 A. Policy items update

IV. New Business
 A. Election of Officers
 B. Review and approval of 2010 SRC Resource Plan

V. Consumer Forum

VI. Next Meeting and Announcements:

VII. Adjournment

/s/ SRC Chairperson

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require reasonable accommodations are asked to contact Magin Iginoef at 322-6537 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY), four days in advance for necessary accomodations.

Publication of this notice is paid for by federal funds made possible by the United States Department of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).

LEGAL NOTICE
ATTENTION

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), U.S. Department of Justice, gives notice that the property listed below was seized for forfeiture pursuant to Title 21, United States Code (U.S.C.), Section 881, because the property was used or acquired as a result of a violation of the Controlled Substances Act (Title 21, U.S.C., Sections 801 et seq.). An owner or lienor may file a petition for remission or mitigation of the forfeiture with the Forfeiture Counsel, Asset Forfeiture Section, Office of Operations Management, Drug Enforcement Administration, HQs Forfeiture Response, P.O. Box 1475, Quantico, Virginia 22134-1475, pursuant to Title 19, U.S.C., Section 1618, and the regulations governing the petition process set forth in Title 28, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 9. Correspondence sent via private delivery must be sent to the Asset Forfeiture Section, Office of Operations Management, Drug Enforcement Administration, 8701 Morrissette Drive, Springfield, Virginia 22152. **In addition to, or in lieu of petitioning for remission or mitigation, a person may contest the forfeiture of the seized property in UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT by filing a claim with the Forfeiture Counsel of the DEA pursuant to Title 18, U.S.C., Section 983(a).** Upon the filing of a claim under Title 18, U.S.C., Section 983(a), a claimant may request, pursuant to Section 983(f), release of the seized property during the pendency of the forfeiture proceeding due to hardship. A petition, claim, or other correspondence shall be deemed filed with the Asset Forfeiture Section, when received by the DEA at either of the addresses noted above. Submissions by facsimile or other electronic means will not be accepted. **The names of persons or businesses appearing in this notice are not necessarily criminal defendants or suspects, nor does the appearance of their names in this notice necessarily mean that they are the target of DEA investigations or other activities.**

FIRST NOTICE
LAST DATE TO FILE JANUARY 28, 2010
PLACE SEIZED, SEIZED FROM, DATE SEIZED

DISTRICT OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
09-DEA-520924, $1,407.00 U.S. Currency, Saipan, MP, Huang, Ya Bin, 08/20/09
09-DEA-521043, Men's Omega Constellation Wristwatch, Ser No 3961201, Saipan, MP, Huang, Biao, 08/17/09

[The property listed above is NOT for sale. The DEA DOES NOT sell forfeited property and the DEA DOES NOT have information on property for sale.]

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust has scheduled a Board of Trustees Regular Meeting to be held on Thursday, December 17, 2009 and Friday, December 18, 2009 beginning at 9:00 AM at the MPLT Conference Room, Suite #107, Morgen Building; Saipan, MP.

The following agenda is hereby established:

I PRELIMINARIES
- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
- Adoption of Minutes

II CONSULTANT'S REPORTS
- Legal Counsel Reports
- Investment Consultant Reports
  - o Flash Reports - November 2009
- Loan Administrator Reports
  - o Status Updates
  - o Individual Recommendations
- Board Consultant Reports
  - o Financial Statements - October 2009

III OLD BUSINESS
- IBPC Loan Request Review
- Rota Gaming Commission Loan Request
- GF Distribution Status Updates
- Municipality of Tinian & Aguiguan Investment (Loan Request) Review and Action
- IPS Review & Action
- High Yield Investment RFP Review & Action
- Liability Insurance Review & Action

IV COMMUNICATIONS
- Ogumoro-Uludong Property Proposal
- Rep. R. Tebuteb - Tinian Loan Matters
- Senate President P. Reyes - GF Distribution
- Rep. R. Yumul - GF Distribution
- Gubernatorial Transition 2010

V NEW BUSINESS
- Atalanta Sosnoff Market Presentation
- MPLT Resolution 10-01: Investment Account Signatories
- Office Space Lease Review & Action
- Employment/Independent Contracts Review & Action
- Administrative/Strategic Planning
- Laserfiche Annual Conference/Trustees & Administrators Institute

VI EXECUTIVE SESSION
At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.

VII MISCELLANEOUS

VIII ADJOURNMENT

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body. All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Phillip Mendiola-Long, AIF Chairman, Board of Trustees

World

Mayon volcano in Philippines oozes lava; alert up

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Authorities moved thousands of villagers from harm's way near the Philippines' most active volcano Tuesday after it oozed lava and shot plumes of ash, and said they probably will spend a bleak Christmas in an evacuation center.

State volcanologists raised the alert level on the cone-shaped, 8,070-foot (2,460-meter) Mayon volcano overnight to two steps below eruption after ash explosions and dark orange lava fragments glowing in the dark trickled down the mountain slope.

Nearly 50,000 people live in a five-mile (eight-kilometer) radius around the mountain, and authorities began moving thousands of them in case it erupts, Albay provincial Gov. Joey Salceda said.

AP

Lava cascades down the slopes of Mayon volcano in Legazpi city, Albay province, at dawn Tuesday Dec. 15, 2009 about 500 kilometers (310 miles) south of Manila, Philippines.

"Whatever the volcano does, our target is zero casualty," Salceda told The Associated Press.

Salceda said he decided to cancel a trip to Copenhagen, where he was to attend a U.N. climate conference to discuss his central Albay province's experience with typhoons and other natural disasters.

Salceda said he would appeal for foreign aid to deal with the expected influx of displaced villagers to emergency shelters.

The first of 20 vehicles, including army trucks, were sent to villages to take residents to schools and other temporary housing, provincial emergency management official Jukes Nunez said.

"It's 10 days before Christmas. Most likely people will be in evacuation centers, and if Mayon's activity won't ease down we will not allow them to return to their homes," Nunez said. "It's difficult and sad, especially for children."

Magma had been rising at the volcano over the past two weeks and began to ooze out of its crater Monday night, but it could get worse in coming days, said Renato Solidum, head of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology.

WORLD BRIEFS

Gore: Polar ice may vanish in 5-7 years

COPENHAGEN (AP)—New computer modeling suggests the Arctic Ocean may be nearly ice-free in the summertime as early as 2014, Al Gore said Monday at the U.N. climate conference. This new projection, following several years of dramatic retreat by polar sea ice, suggests that the ice cap may nearly vanish in the summer much sooner than the year 2030, as was forecast by a U.S. government agency eight months ago. One U.S. government scientist Monday questioned the new prediction as too severe, but other researchers previously have projected a quicker end than 2030 to the Arctic summer ice cap. "It is hard to capture the astonishment that the experts in the science of ice felt when they saw this," said former U.S. Vice President Gore, who joined Scandinavian officials and scientists to brief journalists and delegates. It was Gore's first appearance at the two-week conference.

Pakistan police probe Americans in terror case

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistani police Monday seized luggage and a cell phone from a hotel where three of five Americans arrested on suspicion of militant links stayed, while a court ruled the men cannot be deported until judges review the case. Police allege the young Americans intended to join militants in the northwest tribal areas and then travel to Afghanistan before their arrest last week. The case has fanned fears that Americans and other Westerners are heading to Pakistan to link up with al-Qaida and other militant groups. Police searched the mid-range Saddam Hotel in the southern city of Karachi, the country's commercial hub, where some of the men stayed on Nov. 30 after their arrival in the country. They found five travel bags containing clothes, a cell phone and a book, police official Abdullah Sheikh said.

Iran to try 3 Americans who crossed Iraqi border

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran said Monday a court will try three Americans who wandered across the border from Iraq last July and became ensnared in an increasingly bitter standoff with the West over Tehran's nuclear program. Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki did not say when the trial would begin or even what the Americans were charged with, other than that they had "suspicious aims." Last month, Iran's chief prosecutor said they were accused of spying. "They will be tried by Iran's judiciary system and verdicts will be issued," Mottaki told a news conference. He said the three were still being interrogated. In Washington, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said the Iranian move was "totally unfounded" and appealed anew to authorities to release the Americans.

Attack on Italian PM reveals nation's divisions

ROME (AP)—Even hospitalized and in pain, Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi can polarize Italians.

The bloody image of Berlusconi, reeling after being attacked as he signed autographs following a rally Sunday, has created sympathy and solidarity on one hand, while on the other generating praise for his attacker on Facebook and YouTube.

The strong reactions were similar to those Berlusconi has drawn during his 15 years in politics.

"The bloodied, stunned, scared face of Silvio Berlusconi will remain an icon in the history of this republic," said a national newspaper, La Stampa, which is not owned by Berlusconi's media company.

Berlusconi, 73, was rushed to the San Raffaele hospital in Milan after a man pushed through the crowd and hit him in the face with a souvenir statue of Milan's Duomo, the Gothic cathedral that is a symbol of the city.

The attacker, identified as 42-year-old Massimo Tartaglia, was arrested at the scene and remained in jail in Milan. Police and family members said he had no criminal record but a history of mental problems.

Italy's ANSA news agency reported late Monday that Tartaglia had written a letter to Berlusconi, saying he was sorry for his "superficial, cowardly and uncontrolled" act.

Berlusconi was in pain Tuesday, unable to eat or leave the hospital for at least another day, said his doctor, Alberto Zangrillo.

Tense atmosphere clouds climate talks

COPENHAGEN (AP)—The atmosphere at the U.N. climate conference grew more tense and divisive after talks were suspended for most of Monday's session—a sign of the developing nations' deep distrust of the promises by industrial countries to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

With only days left before the conference closes Friday, at least one world leader said he would come early to try to salvage the negotiations, and others reportedly were considering the move.

The wrangle over emission reductions froze a timetable for government ministers to negotiate a host of complex issues. Though procedural in nature, the Africa-led suspension went to the core of suspicions by poor countries that wealthier ones were trying to soften their commitments and evade penalties for missing their targets.

Talks were halted most of the day, resuming only after conference president Connie Hedegaard of Denmark assured developing countries she was not trying to kill the Kyoto Protocol, the 1997 document that requires industrial nations to cut emissions and imposes penalties if they fail to do so. Kyoto makes no demands on developing countries.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

Saipan International Airport; Tinian International Airport; Rota International Airport
Car Rental Concessions

Request for Proposals

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting proposals for the award of Six (6) Rental Car Concessions at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, three (3) Rental Car Concessions each at the Rota International Airport and Tinian International Airport.

Proposal packages can be obtained beginning November 27, 2009 at the CPA Administration Office, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport at a fee of $50.00 per package. The pre-bid conference will be held on **December 7, 2009, at 2:00 p.m.,** at the CPA Conference Room located on the Second Floor, Departure Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

Proposals for all three (3) airports must be addressed to the Executive Director, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and received by the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) on **December 17, 2009**, by or **before 4:30 p.m.,** in order to be considered for the award. All proposals will be publicly opened on December 18, 2009, at 2:00 p.m., at the CPA Conference Room.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject proposals in accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations.

/s/ MARYANN Q. LIZAMA
Acting Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 234-7144 or 235-7147
Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.cda.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE
December 15, 2009

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION DIVISION (DCD) OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY THRU ITS CHAIRWOMAN, HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE DCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD A REGULAR MEETING THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2009 AT 10:00 A.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, WAKIN'S BUILDING, CHALAN PALE ARNOLD ROAD, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Roll Call
II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
III. ADOPTION OF MINUTES
1. September 10, 2009
IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS
V. REPORTS
1. Financial Report – DCD
2. Loan Reports
   a. Loan Applications
   b. Approved Loans & Bank Guarantees
   c. Loan Status/Receivables Report
   d. DCD Performing Loan Summary/Delinquency & Litigation
VI. OLD BUSINESS
VII. NEW BUSINESS
1. Health Professional Corporation (HPC)
VIII. OTHER MATTERS
IX. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. ***(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session)***

/s/MARCIE M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman, DCD Board of Directors

COMMONWEALTH ELECTION COMMISSION
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
P.O. Box 500470 Saipan. MP 96950-0470
Tel: (670) 664.VOTE / Fax: (670) 664-8689
http://www.votecnmi.gov.mp/

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910 (a) and (b), the Commonwealth Election Commission, hereby give notice that the Commonwealth Election Commission will meet at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 23, 2009, at the Commonwealth Election Commission office in Susupe, Saipan. Additional information concerning this meeting is available at the Office of the Election Commission, Susupe, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters
   a. Roll call
   b. Adoption of agenda

II. Executive Director's Report

III. New Business
   a. Finalization of Election Activity
   b. Election of Officers

IV. Miscellaneous

V. Adjournment

/s/ FRANCES M. SABLAN
Chairwoman

(The Commission, pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, may vote to meet in executive session to consult legal counsel and discuss personnel matters.)

Campus Life

Tinian postcrossing:
Around the world by postcards
Tinian students put Tinian 'on the map'

TINIAN—On the tiny Pacific island of Tinian, the Tinian Public Library has been communicating for six months now with about 210 countries through postcards. Through a project called "Tinian Postcrossing," users of the library utilize an international organization that connects members around the world through postcards.

According to the Tinian Public Library, the project continues to remain primarily a literacy advocacy program designed to ensure that young people living in the digital age still use traditional writing to communicate. The program also aims to teach young children about other countries in the world through sending and receiving postcards.

The program is a postcard exchange between Tinian and the rest of the world. The target audience is primarily students who use the Tinian Public Library. Young people are provided an incentive to write because new postcards come in daily. The postcard exchange entices them to read, write, and express their thoughts on paper.

The program uses an established postcard exchange Web site, www.PostCrossing.com, to facilitate sending and receiving postcards. Postcrossing.com is made up of 150,000 users spread out over 210 countries around the world. Besides libraries, members include schools, groups, and individuals.

The program includes Tinian Mayor's Office staff and community volunteers who help children keep track of and write postcards. The staff and volunteers receive the postcards and help the young students display them on a large map in the public library showing the country of origin. Postcards often generate discussion about subjects ranging from different customs, cultures, climates, and even topography.

"How else would students on Tinian communicate directly with people from places like the Netherlands, Finland, and Germany? Qatar, Iran, Estonia, Croatia and South Africa are some of the more unusual countries where we get postcards," said a community volunteer at the Tinian Public Library.

The program is in partnership with the Tinian Public Library, the Tinian Mayor's Office, and community volunteers. For more information, call the Tinian Public Library at 433-0504 or send e-mail to TPLStaffmembers@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Students stand in front of a map of the world showing postcards they are sending out through the Tinian Public Library's postcard exchange program with 210 countries called the "Tinian Postcrossing Project."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IMMIGRATION FORUM

Northern Marianas College president Dr. Carmen Fernandez (standing third from right) and NMC faculty and staff pose for a photo with officials from the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services. The college met with the USCIS to discuss the procedures nonresident staff of the college must undergo to ensure a smooth transition to becoming legal residents in the CNMI. NMC's Human Resources Department is currently researching and gathering all the required forms and guidelines and will be sharing them with the college community in coming months.

NMC

Golden Harvest goes for gold in PGFC competition

Golden Harvest International School students shine again in the latest PGFC held at the William Reyes Elementary School on Dec. 5, 2009.

Kudos to the winners and teachers in their efforts to be in the limelight at every PGFC competition. This only shows the hard work and sincere dedication of the teachers and parents in mentoring their children. Congratulations to the winners!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Golden Harvest International School students have their picture taken after participating in the PGFC held at the William Reyes Elementary School on Dec. 5, 2009.

K-2 DIVISION

DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION – B
1st place Marione Corpus
2nd place Daphne Cruzat
3rd place Stephen Rem Bartolo
4th place Faith Bocago

DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION – A
4th place Taylor Letis Romolor
5th place Sukey Wu

HUMUROUS INTERPRETATION – A
2nd place John Isaac San Nicolas

HUMUROUS INTERPRETATION- B
2nd place Vince Philip Salvador

DUO – A
1st place Marione Corpus
Stephen Rem Bartolo

4th place Daphne Cruzat
Faith Bocago

5th place John Isaac San Nicolas
Taylor Letis Romolor

DUO – B
1st place Renz Guillier Fauni
Mark Ira Galang

3rd place Kennedy Luther Vila
Davean Casey Gonzales

CHORAL SPEAKING – B
2nd place Davean Casey Gonzales
Kennedy Luther Vila
Aaron Linus Esquivel
Mark Ira Galang

CHORAL SPEAKING - A
5th place Sebastian Bernardo
Michelle Leon Guerrero
Kyla Raquel
Teody Valenzuela
Raven Francisco

3-5 DIVISION

READERS FORUM
1st place En Ming Cacdac

DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION
1st place En Ming Cacdac

DUO – A
1st place Angelo Kris Talens
Matthew Leon Guerrero

DUO – B
2nd place Allen James Aguilar
Mark Daniel Ibanez

CHORAL SPEAKING
1st place Angelo Kris Talens
Allen James Aguilar
Mark Daniel Ibanez
Matthew Leon Guerrero

HONOR ROLL

William S. Reyes Elementary School's 1st Quarter Principal List and Kingfisher Achievement Award

PRINCIPAL'S LIST

1st grade: Derrick Pangelinan, Jennalyn Bernabe, Justin Tarope, Kalena Flores, Katrina Costales, Melissa Vitug, MJ De Belen

2nd grade: Charlize Sanchez, Jaivan Dela Pena, Michaela Carreon, Liana Blas, Kobe Deleon Guerrero, Ericka Santiago

3rd grade: Alyanna Mercado, Brett Elbelau, Lizann Deleon Guerrero, Natalie Montano, Sean Apasan

4th grade: Catherine Roque, Daniel Montano, Mei Lin, Ryan Christian Relucio, Stephen Carino

5th grade: Ariane Reyes, Jayrald Mercene, Jethro Cruz

6th grade: Alexander Limes, Dianne Pablo, Donio Angui, Fariha Omar, Gerald Esquivel, Jacqueline Dalawampu, Joanne Liberato, John Carlo Del Rosario, Mikhail Alcantara, Nikki Yutuc, Reagine Camacho, Zarinae Sapong

KINGFISHER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

2nd grade: Joselito Gomez, Adrian Catagatan, Aleina Torres, Dexter Guevarra, Ethan Mresbang, Ga Hyun Hyun, Hannah Santos, Jasmine Calvo, Jerevon Torres, John Michael Mercader, Kyle Salvosa, Lloyd Tarope, Michelle Bermudes

3rd grade: Albert Bergancia, Allan Calangi, Dominique Calvo, Glorialin Celis, Hanna Shen, Jasper Alonzo, Jenikah Elayda, Justin Silva, Kathleen Gilles, Ricardo Castro, Ydylle Acosta, Zelina Mendoza

4th grade: Jeanelyn Gomez, John Costales, Kenny Diaz, Alexis Ada, April Catagatan, Daryll Navarro, Dianne Sabino, Dicky Feria, Edilberto Sampang, Jedd Cudia, Jim Lacsina, Lorenzy Leo, Nathaniel Montano, Zakari Jack

6th grade: Anne Marielle Mercado, Audrey Skilang, Caitlin Trasmano, Christian Pilapil, Christopher Reyes, Jefferson Mateo, Jessa Sonoda, Josephine Jetnil, Jude Earl Yamson, Kailene Castro, Knohlyn Gechig, Masrur Alam, Mikee Campo, Nathan Camacho, Reniel Relucio, Roselyn Tanghal

Life & Style

Mexico: Grammy winner sang at drug cartel's party

TEPOZTLAN, Mexico (AP)—Latin Grammy winner Ramon Ayala was rounded up during a raid on a drug cartel's Christmas party in a wealthy gated community, showing the audacity of traffickers who hold lavish gatherings despite being hounded by police.

A spokesman for the federal Attorney General's Office said Monday the Texas-based Ayala was released after being questioned Saturday following a military operation that is part of the government's campaign to crack down on drug gangs. Authorities found no grounds for charging him with a crime, the spokesman said.

Mexican norteno bands often sing about drug trafficking and violence and many have been rumored to perform at drug traffickers' weddings and other parties, but few have been caught.

Ayala and his norteno band, Los Bravos del Norte, were performing in a gated community of mansions outside the mountain town of Tepoztlan when sailors raided the house and a shootout ensued before dawn Friday, said the official, who was not authorized to be quoted by name.

Three gunmen were killed and 11 others suspected of working for the Beltran Leyva drug cartel were detained, and $280,000 in cash and 16 automatic rifles were seized, the navy said.

Stray bullets shattered the windows of a nearby home where Maura Cristina Lopez works as a maid. She said she was shocked at the violence in the bucolic neighborhood, where troops in trucks patroled Monday.

"It's always been quiet," she said. "This scares me."

Tepotzlan, just south of Mexico City, is popular with foreign and Mexican tourists because of its cobblestone streets and the ruins of a pre-Columbian pyramid built atop a mountain.

Ayala, a Mexican accordionist and norteno singer who lives in Hidalgo, Texas, has a large following along the Mexico-U.S. border and has won two Latin Grammys.

Each year, he hosts a Christmas festival in Hidalgo, a free event that includes music, food and the opportunity for impoverished children to line up at Ayala's home to receive a ticket for a free gift. The Hidalgo city Web site said Ayala was scheduled to host the event Wednesday.

Ayala

City officials did not immediately respond to an e-mail asking if Ayala would still attend.

"Ramon Ayala has defined norteno music with signature songs and definitive instrumental styling that have made him a superstar on both sides of the El Rio Grande," his Web site says.

In one of his album covers, he stands on a map of the U.S.-Mexico border holding a guitar and an accordion in the Mexican flag's colors of red, white and green while an American flaps in the air near a military helicopter.

A woman who answered the door at Ayala's home in Hidalgo said the performer was not there and she was unsure when he would return. Outside, larger-than-life photos of Ayala and his band plastered the side of a tractor trailer next to an extravagant nativity scene. The band's tour bus stood on a side street.

The singer's representatives at Serca Music in the northern Mexico city of Monterrey declined to comment Monday.

Ayala, who favors black cowboy hats, sings romantic ballads of heartbreak and rural life in Mexico.

Over the years, several norteno musicians have been slain, including performers of the popular northern "Narcocorrido" songs that glorify drug trafficking.

Cellist Yo-Yo Ma named to new post at CSO

CHICAGO (AP)—The Chicago Symphony Orchestra on Monday named famed cellist Yo-Yo Ma to the newly created post of creative consultant, beginning in January.

Ma's three-year appointment was announced by CSO music director designate Riccardo Muti at an appearance at New York's Lincoln Center, where Muti was being named Musician of the Year by Musical America.

Muti said Ma would work with the orchestra and its education programs from Orchestra Hall itself to community centers and juvenile detention facilities.

"I have had the great pleasure and privilege of working with Maestro Muti on many occasions over the past 25 years," Ma said in a statement. "I am impressed and inspired by his passion, intellect and vitality. Along with his first love, music, Maestro Muti cares deeply about so many important issues of our day—our planet, our children and those less fortunate."

AP

In this Sept. 30, 2006, file photo in Chicago, Yo-Yo Ma, world renowned cellist and founder of the Silk road Project, a cross cultural awareness and exchange program, waves as he is introduced at the opening of the Art Institute of Chicago's 'Silk Road Chicago' exhibit.

CSO Association President Deborah F. Rutter said Ma's appointment is a cornerstone of Muti's plans to deepen the orchestra's engagement with the city, support a new generation of musicians and encourage collaboration with young—and often visionary—artists.

Ma also will lead chamber music residencies that will involve fellow artists in the development of innovative thematic programming and engage college-age and pre-college-age musicians.

Rutter said Ma will participate in the development and implementation of several new initiatives, projects and music series as part of the CSO's Institute for Learning Access and Training. They will include a concert series for children ages 3-5; intensive workshops for high school and college-age musicians; and in partnership with Muti, programming for incarcerated and at-risk youth.

Stephanopoulos starts early shift as 'GMA' co-host

NEW YORK (AP)—George Stephanopoulos began tackling an early shift Monday in his new job co-hosting ABC's "Good Morning America."

Robin Roberts termed it "the dawn of a new day" as she welcomed Stephanopoulos beside her at the "GMA" anchor desk.

He began the program in strong form with a lengthy segment on President Barack Obama's tough calls to bankers to lend more money to homeowners and small businesses to help fix the economy.

In his interview with senior presidential adviser David Axelrod at the White House he also pressed for the current status of health-care legislation.

Then, bringing the exchange to a smooth conclusion, he was interrupted by Axelrod, who jokingly produced a surprise and announced that "your friends in the White House have chipped in to get you this gift: It's an alarm clock permanently set for 3:30 in the morning. So Robin, there's no excuse for him to be late for work."

Before his workday was over, Stephanopoulos had also interviewed a science reporter about bionic prosthetic fingers. He questioned talk show host Dr. Oz on tips for reducing heart-related holiday stress. (Cut down on booze, saturated fats and family drama.) And from the "GMA" technology contributor he learned ways to save money shopping online.

Cobain's mother gets guardianship of granddaughter

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The only daughter of Kurt Cobain and Courtney Love has been placed in a temporary guardianship, court records show.

A Los Angeles Superior Court commissioner granted control over 17-year-old Frances Bean Cobain to Kurt Cobain's mother Wendy O'Connor and his sister Kimberly Dawn Cobain.

The court filing does not mention Love or give a reason for the guardianship.

In recent months, Love, former frontwoman of the band Hole, has been criticized for rambling online postings that have attacked a former bandmate and others. A fashion designer sued Love in Los Angeles earlier this year over some of the posts, claiming they were libelous.

AP

In this May 25, 2005 file photo, actress-singer Courtney Love, left, gestures with her 12-year-old daughter Francis Bean as they watch the "American Idol" live finale in Los Angeles.

A three-page order issued Friday was all that is publicly available on the guardianship.

Attorney Geraldine Wyle, who is handling the case for the mother and sister, calls it a private family matter and said no other comment would be issued. Love's publicist Alan Nierob said in an e-mail he didn't have any details about the guardianship.

The court order, which is valid until February, grants Cobain's mother and sister no control over a trust established by the Nirvana frontman for his daughter. Kurt Cobain killed himself in 1994.

The guardianship was first reported by TMZ.com.

In September 2005, Love was sentenced to 180 days at a drug treatment facility for violating probation in three misdemeanor cases—one for illegal possession of painkillers, one for being under the influence of a controlled substance in public, and another for assault and battery.

In Loving Memory of

Atanacio Ayuyu Taitingfong

Better Known as "Tas"

Would like to invite all relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the first death anniversary of our dearly beloved husband, father and grandfather.

Daily Mass will be offered at Saint Jude parish Church

Dec. 18, 2009, Friday	5:00 a.m.
Dec. 19, 2009, Saturday	5:00 a.m.
Dec. 20, 2009, Sunday	5:00 a.m.
Dec. 21, 2009, Monday	5:00 a.m.
Dec. 22, 2009, Tuesday	5:00 a.m.
Dec. 23, 2009, Wednesday	5:00 a.m.
Dec. 24, 2009, Thursday	5:00 a.m.
Dec. 25, 2009, Friday	8:00 a.m.
Dec. 26, 2009, Saturday	7:00 a.m.

Your presence and prayers at these daily masses will be greatly appreciated.

SI YU'US MA'ASE.

Ginen as Florencia Danlag Taitingfong ("Flor"), Children, Grandchildren & Family

'Avatar' joins tradition of the Hollywood colossus

NEW YORK (AP)—It's fair to say that it's a risky venture to create a movie about an exotically colored, 10-foot-tall tribe called the Na'vi and spend more money making it than any other film in the history of Hollywood.

Yet investing hundreds of millions of dollars in James Cameron's "Avatar" (exact figures aren't available but the total cost, including marketing, is expected to run close to half a billion dollars) is a bet likely to pay off for 20th Century Fox.

Cameron has a box-office track record matched by few. And, in case there was any worry, Fox is running an enormous advertising campaign that included the unusual step of previewing 15 minutes of the film nationwide in August.

But however many millions "Avatar" earns, it clearly sits firmly in the grand tradition of audacious Hollywood spectacles—the kind of over-the-top, go-for-broke grabs for silver screen glory.

There have been movies that took risks with social progressiveness ("The Defiant Ones," "Brokeback Mountain"), that gambled with casting ("Valkyrie," "Precious") and that upended convention ("Taxi Driver," "Pulp Fiction").

But no roll of the cinematic dice captivates quite like the true Hollywood colossus—those behemoths where ego and budget swell in tandem. They have a way of either reaching stratospheric heights or bombing faster than you can say "Gigli."

Hollywood has become increasingly risk-adverse in recent years, but it has, on occasion, bet the house. As producer Peter Guber once said, "Inside every disaster is a hit film and inside every hit film are the seeds of a disaster."

A sampling of moviedom's risky business:

■ "Titanic": Yes, Cameron has been here before. The run-up to the release of 1997's "Titanic" had all the hallmarks of an enormous flop in the making: cost overruns (its production budget reached a then record $200 million), blown deadlines, a 17-million-gallon tank—you know, the usual stuff. But it made $600 million domestically and $1.2 billion internationally and won 11 Academy Awards.

■ "Waterworld": Water was good for "Titanic," but unkind to Kevin Costner's 1995 soggy epic. Costner, not long off "Dances With Wolves," "Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves" and "JFK," was then a big star. Budget costs ballooned, the central set sank and Costner clashed with director Kevin Reynolds, eventually replacing him during editing. With a budget of $175 million, it grossed $88 million at the box office for Universal Pictures. Costner's follow-up, 1997's "The Postman," didn't improve on things.

■ "The Lord of the Ring" trilogy: Eight years and $285 million is a lot to sink into a director unproven in large-scale films. But New Line's gamble that Peter Jackson could bring home J.R.R. Tolkien's story—and that the audience would be there for the second and third films—paid off in spades. Shooting all three of the films together was a classic boom-or-bust tactic. The trilogy made $2.9 billion worldwide, better even than the original "Star Wars" trilogy.

■ "Heaven's Gate": As much as "Rings" filled the coffers at New Line, Michael Cimino's 1980 Western emptied them at United Artists. It's generally viewed as the film that prompted studios to reel in their talented directors, who had found freedom in the 1960s and 1970 while making some of Hollywood's best films. Made for an estimated $42 million (or about $149 million today, accounting for inflation), it grossed only $3 million. The New York Times compared the 219-minute film to "a forced four-hour walking tour of one's own living room."

■ "Passion of the Christ": Though "Heaven's Gate" proved the perils of a headstrong director, Mel Gibson showed that some filmmakers, when given latitude, can make a monstrous hit. "Passion" (2004) was produced by Gibson's Icon Productions, giving him free rein to make the movie he wanted. Made for just $30 million, it wasn't financially risky. But as an openly religious, subtitled film, much of it in Aramaic, Gibson's reputation was certainly on the line. As one of the most profitable films ever made, grossing $371 million domestically, it wasn't the movie that hurt Gibson's image but anti-Semitic remarks he made during a DUI arrest.

■ "Cleopatra": Perhaps the high-water mark for indulgence has to go to Fox's 1963 film starring Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton—the Brangelina of its day. A case study in runaway costs, its budget rose to a then incredible $44 million—or $306 million in 2008 dollars. The 70mm film was advertised (and the spots for the 3-D "Avatar" have a similar whiff of hyperbole) as "the entertainment of a lifetime." It was more successful than most flops, earning $26 million at the box-office, or about $108 million in 2008 dollars. Though it nearly ruined 20th Century Fox, it's believed to have eventually made a profit.

■ "Pirates of the Caribbean": In retrospect, Disney's pirate series seems like an obvious hit. But Disney's earlier tries at turning theme-park attractions into movies ("The Haunted Mansion," "The Country Bears") had not done well. Johnny Depp's legion of adoring fans might be shocked to recall that the actor was also viewed as box-office poison at the time. Yet the three films (2003's "The Curse of the Black Pearl," 2006's "Dead Man's Chest" and 2007's "At World's End") collectively earned $2.6 billion worldwide, a huge relief to Disney since they were extremely expensive to make: $140 million, $225 million and $300 million, respectively.

Now, any recognizable name—even toys such as Hasbro's Battleship game—are viewed as ripe for adaptation. Original blockbusters such as "Avatar" are the oddball.

AP

In this film publicity image released by 20th Century Fox, the character Neytiri, voiced by Zoe Saldana, and the character Jake, voiced by Sam Worthington are shown in a scene from, "Avatar."

Golden Globe picks help sort out Oscar prospects

By DAVID GERMAIN
AP MOVIE WRITER

BEVERLY HILLS, California (AP)—Having 10 best-picture nominees will be something different for the next Academy Awards, but it's nothing new at the Golden Globes.

The Globes, whose nominations come out Tuesday morning, have long featured 10 or more best-picture nominees, divided into two categories: best drama and best musical or comedy.

Plenty of Globe nominees for musical or comedy have made the best-picture cut at the Academy Awards, some even going on to win the top prize at the Oscars, such as 2002's "Chicago."

But the Globe dramatic picks typically are the films that have scored well at the Oscars, where the best-picture category has been doubled from five nominees to 10 for the first time in 66 years.

That could make the Globes even more of a bellwether for how Academy Awards nominations will play out Feb. 2, potentially opening the best-picture race to populist lighter films that often get overlooked amid the gloomy fare favored by Oscar voters.

George Clooney and Jason Reitman have a likely Globe nominee with their comedy "Up in the Air," which has earned such widespread acclaim that it probably would have been an Academy Awards contender if the Oscars still had only five nominees.

Other strong Globe prospects include the Iraq War drama "The Hurt Locker," the inner-city tale "Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire," the British romantic dramas "An Education" and "Bright Star," director Clint Eastwood's Nelson Mandela saga "Invictus" and two Meryl Streep comic-tinged stories, "Julie & Julia" and "It's Complicated."

Streep and Clooney's cartoon comedy "Fantastic Mr. Fox" is a contender for best animated film, along with the blockbuster "Up," the musical fairy tale "The Princess and the Frog" and the dark fantasy "Coraline."

Acting prospects range from old pros Streep, Clooney, Jeff Bridges ("Crazy Heart") and Morgan Freeman ("Invictus") to fresh faces such as Carey Mulligan ("An Education"), Gabourey Sidibe ("Precious"), Abbie Cornish ("Bright Star") and Ben Foster ("The Messenger").

The 67th annual Globes will be handed out Jan. 17, six days before nomination voting closes for the Oscars. Globe winners can get a last-minute bump for an Oscar nomination, particularly on smaller films such as 1999's "Boys Don't Cry," whose Globe triumph for Hilary Swank helped put her on the map for a best-actress win at the Oscars.

Last year's best drama winner at the Globes, "Slumdog Millionaire," went on to win best picture and dominate at the Oscars. Other Globe recipients who followed with Oscar wins included Heath Ledger as supporting actor for "The Dark Knight" and Kate Winslet, who won supporting actress at the Globes for "The Reader" and best actress for that film at the Oscars.

NY Film Critics name 'The Hurt Locker' best film

By JAKE COYLE
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—The Iraq war drama "The Hurt Locker" added to its award-season momentum, winning best film from the New York Film Critics Circle.

The group, which announced its selections Monday, also awarded best director to Kathryn Bigelow of "The Hurt Locker." Those choices mirrored the selections of the Los Angeles Film Critics Association, which were announced Sunday.

The New York critics picked Meryl Streep for best actress for her performance in "Julie & Julia." It was her fourth award from the group.

Best actor went to George Clooney, who was chosen for "Up in the Air" and "Fantastic Mr. Fox." The latter, Wes Anderson's stop-motion animated movie, won for best animated film.

Christoph Waltz, who played a menacing Nazi in Quentin Tarantino's "Inglourious Basterds," won best supporting actor. Best actress went to Mo'Nique for her performance as the mother in "Precious."

The New York Film Critics Circle Awards are among the drumbeat of critics' prizes leading up to the Academy Awards on March 7. Oscar nominations are announced Feb. 2. Nominations for the Golden Globes, perhaps the most high profile of the earlier awards, were to be announced Tuesday by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association.

The early positive critical response to James Cameron's "Avatar" has recently altered the handicapping of the Oscar race. Though the NYFCC declined to give any awards to "Avatar," the New York Film Critics Online on Sunday named the movie its choice for best picture.

"We had a lot of good stuff to choose from and we spread the awards around," said NYFCC chairman Armond White, critic for New York Press. "That's a good thing because it recognizes the year's abundance."

The group also gave best screenplay to the political satire "In the Loop." Best cinematography went to Christian Berger for his work on Michael Haneke's "The White Ribbon."

Olivier Assayas' French drama "Summer Hours" won for best foreign film. Terence Davies' "Of Time and the City," which is both a documentary and a personal narrative, was chosen as best "nonfiction film."

For the first time, the critics also chose to give their special award to a fellow critic: Andrew Sarris, the famed critic who wrote for the Village Voice and championed the "auteur theory." Earlier this year, the 81-year-old writer was laid off by the New York Observer, though he remains a film professor at Columbia University.

The New York Film Critics Circle, founded in 1935, will present its awards Jan. 11. The group, which is composed of 33 metro-area film critics, last year named Gus Van Sant's "Milk" as best picture.

Sports Illustrated puts Stephen Colbert on cover

Authorities: Buju Banton negotiated cocaine deal

MIAMI (AP)—Jamaican reggae star Buju Banton is facing charges that he attempted along with others to buy a large quantity of cocaine from an undercover law enforcement officer.

A U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration affidavit says Banton, whose real name is Mark Anthony Myrie, traveled to Sarasota last week to make the purchase along with two others. The DEA was tipped off by a confidential informant who agreed to wear a recording device during the drug negotiation session.

Banton, 36, faces a charge of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute more than five kilograms of cocaine, which carries a maximum 20-year prison sentence. Banton was being held at Miami's downtown detention center Monday pending transfer to Tampa, where the case is being prosecuted.

A bail hearing was set for Wednesday in Miami federal court. The attorney handling that for Banton didn't immediately return an e-mail seeking comment.

According to the DEA affidavit, Banton contacted the confidential informant last Monday about a possible cocaine purchase. The next day, Banton and other men met with the informant at Sarasota's La Tropicana de Havana restaurant, where the DEA and local police had set up surveillance.

Banton allegedly arrived at the meeting in his silver Land Rover with the license plate "Jah One," according to the affidavit.

2009 Year in Sports Media
Sports Illustrated
Movies
Damon Scrums (And Speaks to Dan Patrick)
Speedskater Extraordinaire
STEPHEN COLBERT AND HIS NATION SAVE THE OLYMPICS*
Television
Collinsworth Shines on Sunday Night
Digital
Ochocinco Squawks
*A truthy tale of a sport getting the Colbert Bump

In this magazine cover released by Sports Illustrated, TV personality Stephen Colbert is shown on the Dec. 21, 2009 cover of "Sports Illustrated" magazine, available nationwide on newsstands on Dec. 14. AP

NEW YORK (AP)—Stephen Colbert (kohl-BEHR') has joined the legions of athletes and swimsuit models to grace the cover of Sports Illustrated.

The host of Comedy Central's "The Colbert Report" appears on the front of the magazine's latest issue wearing an Olympic speedskating uniform. The issue is devoted to sports media. It's on newsstands Wednesday.

In November, devoted Colbert fans known as the Colbert Nation became the official primary sponsor of U.S. Speedskating. The team's largest annual cash sponsor, DSB Bank NV, left the team in the lurch after it declared bankruptcy in October.

With contributions from fans, more than $250,000 has been raised. Colbert has made Olympics-related material a nearly nightly fixture on his show.

Other celebrities have appeared on the cover of Sports Illustrated, including late actor Bob Hope in 1963 and comedian Chris Rock in 2000.

'Basterds,' 'Nine' among top Critics' Choice picks

NEW YORK (AP)—"Inglourious Basterds" and "Nine" lead contenders for the Critics' Choice Movie Awards with 10 nominations each, including best picture, the Broadcast Film Critics Association announced Monday.

James Cameron's "Avatar" received nine nominations, including best picture.

Other best-picture nominees are "An Education," "The Hurt Locker," "Invictus," "Precious," "A Serious Man," "Up" and "Up in the Air."

Best-actor nominees are Jeff Bridges for "Crazy Heart," George Clooney for "Up in the Air," Colin Firth for "A Single Man," Morgan Freeman for "Invictus," Viggo Mortensen for "The Road" and Jeremy Renner for "The Hurt Locker."

Nominated for best actress: Emily Blunt for "The Young Victoria," Sandra Bullock for "The Blind Side," Carey Mulligan for "An Education," Saoirse Ronan for "The Lovely Bones," Gabourey Sidibe for "Precious" and Meryl Streep for "Julie & Julia."

UK man detained after punching Leona Lewis

LONDON (AP)—A British court has ordered a man to remain hospitalized after he admitted assaulting singer Leona Lewis during a book signing session.

Peter Kowalczyk had been charged with punching the pop star in the face as she went to sign his copy of her autobiography in central London on Oct. 14.

Kowalczyk pleaded guilty to common assault. A judge ordered the 29-year-old to remain in the hospital under mental health laws.

Prosecutor Melanie Lee, reading out a witness statement by Lewis, said Monday the singer felt completely devastated by the attack. In the statement Lewis says: "Now I am very frightened about going out in public."

Lee says the attack left Lewis with a red and swollen face.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

History Channel plans scripted Kennedys miniseries

NEW YORK (AP)—The History Channel is planning its first scripted series and will base it on the Kennedys. The cable network says the eight-hour series is called "The Kennedys" and will be told in a multigenerational manner akin to "The Godfather." The network says the series will depict a manipulative, egocentric father living out his ambitions through his sons. The personal drama of the clan will be included in the saga as well as the era's major events. Some of those include the Bay of Pigs, the Cuban missile crisis and the civil rights struggle. No casting has been announced for the series. It is scheduled to air in 2011.

Grizz Chapman of '30 Rock' needs kidney transplant

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Actor Grizz Chapman of "30 Rock" said Monday he needs a kidney transplant and wants to raise awareness of the dangers of high blood pressure, which led to his condition. Chapman said he is receiving dialysis treatments and will continue to play Grizzwald the NBC sitcom. He and Kevin Brown, as the character Dot Com, appear as the two-man entourage for a hapless comedian played by Tracy Morgan. Chapman, 35, is married and has two children. He is scheduled to appear on "The Dr. Oz Show" Tuesday to discuss his health. Chapman said Monday he was diagnosed a decade ago with high blood pressure and learned two years ago that he was suffering from kidney disease. He gets dialysis treatments three times a week. The actor said he will have the organ transplant when a match is found and he's at an acceptable weight. "I'm a little nervous about the process, but I'm definitely willing and able," Chapman said from New York.

NBC pegs March 1 as debut date for 'Parenthood'

NEW YORK (AP)—NBC is announcing the debut date for its previously delayed drama series, "Parenthood," along with the arrival of other midseason shows. Initially announced for fall, "Parenthood" will premiere March 1. "The Marriage Ref," a comedy panel series with Jerry Seinfeld as producer, premieres March 14, followed the same night by the return of "The Celebrity Apprentice" for a new season. "Parenthood" is based on the 1989 film that starred Steve Martin. It is an ensemble series featuring Craig T. Nelson, Bonnie Bedelia and Mae Whitman, as well as Lauren Graham, a recent replacement for Maura Tierney, who was sidelined by illness and forced to withdraw from the show in September.

'New Moon' distributor picks up Polanski film

NEW YORK (AP)—Summit Entertainment, the distributor of the "Twilight" films, has picked up Roman Polanski's latest movie. Summit says it will distribute Polanski's "The Ghost Writer" in North America. The film is expected to be released in the first half of 2010. In the film, Pierce Brosnan stars as a former British prime minister who's writing his memoirs with the help of a ghostwriter, played by Ewan McGregor. It's Polanski's first film since 2005's "Oliver Twist." The fate of "The Ghost Writer" had been in some doubt since the 76-year-old director was arrested in Switzerland, where he awaits extradition to the U.S. A California appeals court last week heard arguments on a 32-year-old charge of sexual misconduct against Polanski.

Woman is hot and bothered by husband who means well

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: How do you explain to a man how uncomfortable hot flashes are? I'm a perimenopausal woman who has been married for 12 years to a sweet husband who loves to "snuggle." But when I'm having a hot flash, the last thing I want is a warm body touching me. My husband thinks I'm "mean" and that I'm one of those "freaky females."

How can I make him understand that hot flashes happen, and that it should be OK for me to ask for some space until the feeling passes?

HOT FLASH HILDA

DEAR HILDA: Start with the basics. Tell him (if he hasn't already noticed) that when a woman experiences a hot flash, her skin suddenly feels intensely warm and she often begins to perspire—sometimes profusely. The feeling of heat can be so strong that some women suddenly remove their jackets, and others also feel an overwhelming urge to remove their jewelry. Fortunately, the feeling usually passes within a few minutes.

If your husband doesn't get the message, then preheat your oven to 450 degrees for 15 minutes, open the door and ask him to lean in. Ladies, have you anything to add?

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are in our 80s. For many years we used to entertain during the holidays. Now we wonder where all our former guests have disappeared to.

Our annual parties grew to include more than 80 friends. Dinner was prepared by a chef; we had a bartender and a pianist. People said they looked forward to those gatherings year after year.

We never expected anyone to entertain us in the same way, yet even being asked out for hamburgers would have been such a treat. Very few reciprocated in any way except to bring a few bottles of wine. We miss them and wonder if people realize that a simple get-together is always appreciated.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT, SPARKS, NEV.

DEAR FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Some of the guests you entertained so beautifully may have been intimidated because it was done on such a grand scale. But if my mail is any indication, it also appears many people have "forgotten" that there is a social obligation that goes with accepting invitations, and that the guests must reciprocate with an invitation of some sort in return.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I work at a public library and live not far from where I work. A lot of people who use the library live in my apartment building and I run into them often. These people never hesitate to stop me when I'm clearly off the clock to ask me a slew of library questions.

I confess I'm a bit of a doormat, and I'm afraid to ask them to leave me alone. Is there a way to tell those people to quit harassing me when I'm not working? I'd feel so much better about myself if I learned how.

THE ANSWER LADY

DEAR ANSWER LADY: Look the person in the eye and say, "That may take some researching, but I'll be glad to answer that when I'm at the library. Ask me then."

However, if you can't find the courage to say this, then what you need more than an answer from an advice columnist is assertiveness training. A psychologist can give you a referral or some pointers.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

MISERABLE MISCREANT! QUESTION MY INTEGRITY, WILL YOU?
I CAN'T QUESTION IT UNTIL I SEE SOME EVIDENCE OF IT!
AUGHH! I'VE BEEN FIGHTING!
ONLY IN THE LOOSEST SENSE OF THE WORD.
SANTA, HE MADE ME! I DIDN'T MEAN TO FIGHT!
YES HE DID! YES HE DID! HE STARTED IT!
I DID NOT! DID TOO! DID NOT! DID TOO! LIAR! LIAR!
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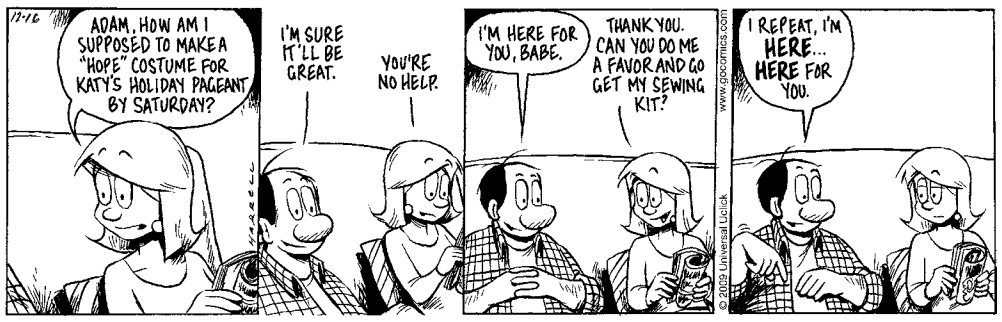
12-16

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


12-16
ADAM, HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO MAKE A "HOPE" COSTUME FOR KATY'S HOLIDAY PAGEANT BY SATURDAY?
I'M SURE IT'LL BE GREAT.
YOU'RE NO HELP.
I'M HERE FOR YOU, BABE.
THANK YOU. CAN YOU DO ME A FAVOR AND GO GET MY SEWING KIT?
I REPEAT, I'M HERE... HERE FOR YOU.
www.gocomics.com
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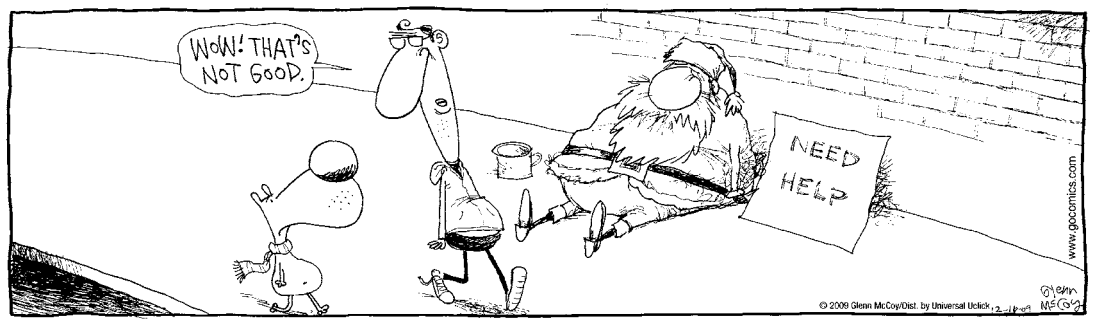
The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

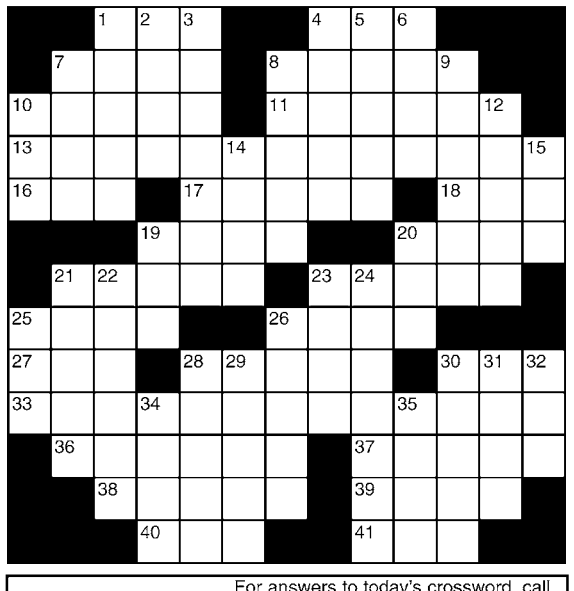
ACROSS
1 Massage
4 Acorn producer
7 Parsley partner
8 "Sesame Street" character
10 Chamberlain nickname
11 Experts
13 Property of uranium, e.g.
16 Office-holders
17 Prepare to propose
18 "Golly!"
19 Apportion (out)
20 Writer Kingsley
21 Backbone
23 "I Know Who Killed Me" actress
25 Noisy
26 Broom-closet items
27 Dadaist painter
28 Spingarn Medal org.
30 Blackjack part
33 13-Across detector
36 Drool
37 Crystal-lined rock
38 Recording artist?
39 Title
40 Mound stat
41 Rds.

DOWN
1 Incursions
2 Wrinkly citrus
3 Give evidence of
4 Give a speech
5 Tiny bone in the ear
6 Chicken —
7 Ollie's pal
8 Host
9 Baffler
10 Lanka lead-in
12 Oktoberfest souvenir
14 Chip in a chip
15 "Certainly"
19 Central
20 Oohs' mates
21 Sensitive spots
22 Students
23 Crazy
24 Calls into question
25 Trail behind
26 PC user's shortcut
28 When pigs fly
29 Action venue
30 Fermi's particles
31 Relinquish
32 Before
34 Fence entry
35 Tidy

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	N	T	E	■	S	P	A	■	B	U	S	H
L	O	U	P	■	A	U	G	■	U	N	T	O
A	L	T	O	■	G	R	O	U	N	D	E	R
S	O	U	N	D	E	R	■	R	I	O	T	S
■	■	■	Y	E	S	■	I	D	O	■	■	■
P	O	E	M	S	■	B	O	U	N	D	E	R
O	H	M	■	■	G	U	N	■	■	A	V	A
P	O	U	N	D	E	R	■	Y	E	M	E	N
■	■	■	O	I	L	■	C	O	N	■	■	■
A	G	O	G	O	■	F	O	U	N	D	E	R
F	L	O	U	N	D	E	R	■	E	U	R	O
R	A	N	T	■	E	T	A	■	A	N	N	A
O	D	A	S	■	C	A	L	■	D	E	E	D

Yesterday's answer 12-16



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Hallee Hirsh, 22; Michael McCary, 38; Benjamin Bratt, 46; Sam Robards, 48

Happy Birthday: The test will be to recognize the opportunities and take action without going overboard. You will have to be ready to pounce when the time is right. You can achieve great heights if you aren't afraid to make a move. There is money to be made and pending problems to be rectified—nothing is out of reach as long as you know your boundaries. Your numbers are 3, 10, 18, 24, 35, 41, 43

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Get involved in conversations or events that will help you gain experience, information or know-how. Love is in the stars and an interesting encounter will develop into something greater if you frequent old familiar places. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Hold on to your money. Just because you see something that someone might like doesn't mean you have to purchase it. Impulsive purchases will cause stress later on when you are short of cash. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Open your home to friends and colleagues who share some of your interests. Creative ideas put into practice at home and work will bring you greater opportunities and a partnership that enables you to pursue important goals. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't give in to anyone trying to push you to take on responsibilities that don't belong to you. Speak up and let everyone you have to deal with know you will not deviate for someone else's gain. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Watch your back. Not everyone will be on your side or willing to do for you what you would in return. Love is on the rise and there can be a happy ending to a stressful day. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't leave anything to chance. You have to take charge and follow through with your plans. Accomplishment can be yours but not if you let emotional matters escalate and stand in the way of your productivity. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Avoid pushy people trying to get you to do things you don't want to do. Keep busy traveling or shopping. It will be much easier to buy your way out of a situation than to talk your way out. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Put things aside that aren't working for you. Don't trust anyone who doesn't have the vision to give you proper advice. It will take a creative person to recognize your potential. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Put your personality, skills and experience to work for you and you will find financial success when and where you least expect. Talks may be limited if you aren't willing to speak from the heart. A deal you've been working on will pay off now. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You may have plenty of information but to dole it out for free is not the answer. Bide your time and make what you have to offer worth something. Don't share information regarding your financial position until you have stabilized your situation. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Impress someone you want to get to know better by offering assistance or volunteering for a cause. Love is in the stars and a change you make to your place of residence or your everyday routine will enhance a relationship that means a lot to you. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't fall for compliments or offerings that are just a ploy to get your attention. Change may be tempting but it isn't likely to fix any existing problems. Face facts and deal with issues head-on. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are passionate and always ready to please others. You are strong-willed and not afraid to do things differently. You are a problem-solver.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

					8	2	7	
				4				
	7	4	3		2	9	8	
4	8			2			9	7
7								8
3								5
1								2
	5						1	
		7	9	1	6	5		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/16

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	1	8	2	6	4	3	9	7
7	3	2	5	9	1	6	8	4
6	4	9	8	3	7	5	2	1
3	2	1	7	5	6	8	4	9
8	9	7	3	4	2	1	5	6
4	5	6	1	8	9	2	7	3
2	7	4	6	1	5	9	3	8
9	6	3	4	2	8	7	1	5
1	8	5	9	7	3	4	6	2

Difficulty Level ★★ 12/15

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

POLICE SCANNERS **Solution: 8 letters**

R	P	A	E	(T)	A	G	I	T	S	E	V	N	I	C
P	E	O	L	S	(O)	R	E	V	I	E	C	E	R	I
A	R	S	S	E	T	(N)	D	D	S	H	S	C	A	F
T	S	E	C	U	R	E	(E)	D	E	W	T	O	N	F
R	V	I	A	U	E	T	E	A	O	T	E	N	T	A
O	E	C	N	F	E	P	D	R	N	A	B	N	E	R
L	H	N	D	C	P	P	B	E	T	A	G	E	N	T
E	I	E	T	I	H	U	M	S	O	S	R	C	N	C
N	C	U	U	O	G	E	R	E	I	A	R	T	A	I
N	L	Q	N	E	C	I	T	S	D	G	E	E	L	L
A	E	E	E	R	D	A	T	I	U	I	N	G	S	B
H	S	R	O	M	C	O	O	A	A	I	C	A	A	U
C	E	F	N	O	I	T	C	A	L	E	T	A	L	P
A	N	A	L	O	G	R	M	E	T	S	Y	S	L	S
E	M	E	R	G	E	N	C	Y	D	E	V	I	C	E

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Action, Agent, Alert, Analog, Antenna, Audio, Browse, Channel, Connect, Crime, Decode, Detect, Device, Digital, Emergency, Enforcement, Equipped, Feed, Frequencies, Headphone, Hear, Investigate, Locate, Medical, News, Page, Patrol, Public, Pursuits, Radio, Receiver, Rescue, Scan, Secure, Signals, Streets, System, Tone, Traffic, Users, Vehicles

Yesterday's Answer: Drip

Just in time for gift-giving: Treasury 8 can be ordered by sending check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 postage and handling each ($14.20 total each, U.S. funds only) for the first volume. $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Universal Uclick, Attn: Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at upuzzles.com.

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Saipan Tribune

Ma. Thelma Labarda
PMB 534 Box 10003
Saipan, MP 96950
286 8168

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Ma. Thelma Labarda Petitioner,	) FCD DI) CIVIL ACTION) NO. 09-0377
vs.	) **SUMMONS**) **FOR**
Onel Corpuz Respondent,	) **PUBLICATION**)

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:
Onel Corpuz

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is PMB 534 Box 10003 Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 19th day of November 2009.

/s/ Clerk of Court

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49ers deny sloppy Cardinals NFC West crown

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The Arizona Cardinals threw away a chance to clinch a second straight NFC West crown.

Alex Smith threw touchdown passes after two of Arizona's seven turnovers, Frank Gore ran for 167 yards and another score and the San Francisco 49ers kept their slim playoff hopes alive with a dominant 24-9 victory Monday night.

With a relentless defensive attack, San Francisco forced the sloppy Cardinals into five first-half turnovers and kept Kurt Warner from finding a groove. Warner threw two interceptions in the opening half after going 130 passes without a pick.

Arizona (8-5) can still clinch the division by winning two of its final three games.

"Getting a win against a team playing great ball that had a chance to clinch the division, we came out and dominated," Gore said. "They let me get in the zone. Any back who gets in that zone, it's hard to stop them."

Gore had his most productive game since Week 2, running over a Cardinals defense that held Adrian Peterson to just 19 yards in a win against Minnesota last week. Gore was certainly motivated for a big night after getting only 30 yards on 22 carries in a season-opening victory at Arizona on Sept. 13.

Smith, coming off a loss at Seattle last week in which he threw for a career-high 310 yards, connected on TD passes to Vernon Davis and Michael Crabtree and finished 19 of 35 for 144 yards. The 49ers (6-7) answered coach Mike Singletary's challenge to make a statement on the national stage against the reigning NFC champions.

The Cardinals had their second game with six or more turnovers of the season, much to the delight of the sellout crowd at Candlestick Park. The 49ers had a franchise-record five forced fumbles, two by safety Dashon Goldson.

AP

San Francisco 49ers wide receiver Michael Crabtree (15) scores on a 35-yard touchdown reception past Arizona Cardinals cornerback Bryant McFadden (25) in the second quarter of an NFL football game in San Francisco, Monday, Dec. 14, 2009.

"Each of our backs had a fumble. That's certainly not acceptable," Cardinals coach Ken Whisenhunt said. "Obviously it was ugly for us. We're all disappointed and embarrassed."

Not long ago, San Francisco hoped this game would be for the division title, but the Niners had lost six of eight following a 3-1 start, including five straight road games by 19 total points since the victory at Arizona. They sure showed up for this one, on a night former San Francisco stars Steve Young and Jerry Rice worked the pregame show for ESPN on the sideline.

"I can't really express to you how proud I am of our team," Singletary said. "That was the thing we talked about all week: 'Let's go out and see how good we can be without killing ourselves.'"

Warner followed the best four-game stretch of his career with a dud - going 16 of 29 for 178 yards with two interceptions and being sacked four times. Warner, who joined Johnny Unitas as the only quarterbacks to post a passer rating of at least 120 in four straight games, had gone 130 passes without an interception before Goldson picked off a pass intended for Steve Breaston early in the second quarter. Warner later threw another.

And it didn't help matters the Cardinals lost star receiver Larry Fitzgerald early in the second half to a right knee injury after Goldson landed on him. He later returned.

The 49ers forced five turnovers in the first half for the first time since Sept. 14, 1997, against New Orleans. Arizona was shut out in a first half for the first time since Dec. 21, 2008, at New England.

Davis caught his 11th touchdown pass of the season, extending his franchise-record mark by a tight end. Crabtree's second career TD reception was a 35-yard catch 52 seconds before halftime. Joe Nedney added a 37-yard field goal.

Arizona finally got on the board on Neil Rackers' 48-yard field goal with 5:52 left in the third quarter, then Beanie Wells pounded into the end zone on an impressive second effort on fourth-and-goal from the 1 early in the final quarter. Ray McDonald blocked the extra-point attempt.

Arizona was out of sync from the start.

The Cardinals jumped offside on three of four snaps during the 49ers' opening drive, which was thwarted when Cardinals defensive lineman Darnell Dockett tipped a batted pass to himself for an interception. San Francisco reviewed the call, but it stood as an interception. Smith had gone 99 attempts without throwing a pick.

San Francisco used up its second and final review of the game with 4:39 left in the first quarter, winning that one to give Dre' Bly a recovery of Tim Hightower's fumble and a first-and-goal at the 8 for the 49ers.

Smith threw a 5-yard TD strike to Davis two plays later for a 7-0 lead.

Crabtree wound up with five catches for 67 yards.

The 49ers swept the season series after Arizona did so in 2008. The teams haven't split their two annual meetings since each winning at home in 2003, with the 49ers capturing both matchups in 2004 and '07 and Arizona taking each in 2005 and '06.

San Francisco played without left tackle Joe Staley, who worked out hard on the field before the game and had hoped to return after spraining his right knee Nov. 1 at Indianapolis.

Pierce leads balanced Celtics to 11th straight win

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP)—Paul Pierce scored 19 points, Ray Allen and Rajon Rondo added 18 each as the Boston Celtics won their 11th straight game, beating the Memphis Grizzlies 110-105 on Monday.

Rasheed Wallace added 15 points, while Kendrick Perkins and Kevin Garnett each scored 13. Rondo had nine of Boston's 25 assists.

Rudy Gay led the Grizzlies with 23 points and O.J. Mayo had 21. Zach Randolph added 20 for Memphis, which has lost two of three.

Garnett's 21-foot jumper from the top of the key stopped the rally, and Allen sealed it for the Celtics by hitting a 3-pointer as the shot clock was running out with 17.5 seconds left.

76ers 117, Warriors 101

At Philadelphia, Thaddeus Young had 26 points and 14 rebounds, and Allen Iverson scored 20 points as Philadelphia snapped a 12-game losing streak.

Iverson played the best game of his four-game second stint in Philadelphia.

Corey Maggette led the Warriors with 24 points and Anthony Randolph had 15.

Jrue Holiday had 15 points, seven rebounds and six assists for the 76ers, who won for only the third time in 19 games. Their 12-game losing streak was the longest since 2006.

Mavericks 94, Hornets 90

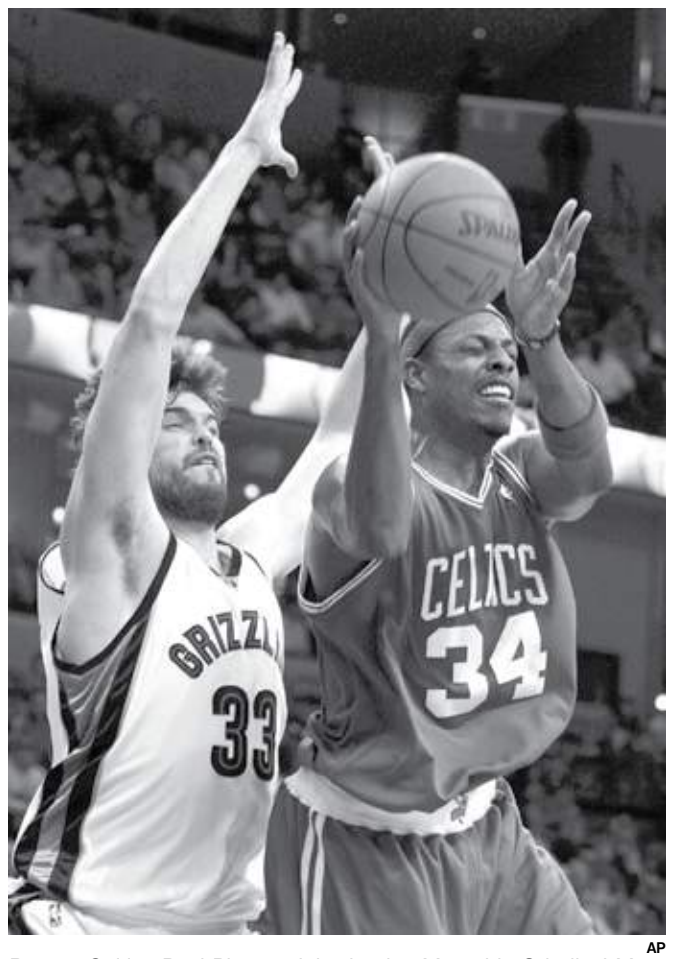
At Dallas, J.J. Barea scored a season-high 23 points and Dirk Nowitzki scored four of his season-low 10 in the final 59 seconds for Dallas.

Barea scored 19 points in the first half, helping Dallas build a 21-point lead. New Orleans coach Jeff Bower then benched all his starters except Chris Paul and the Hornets got aggressive on both ends of the court, tying it at 60. The Mavericks were ahead 90-83 when Nowitzki made a 20-footer in the final minute of their fourth straight victory.

Paul had 20 points, 16 assists and five steals, while Darius Songaila tied a season high with 12 points playing only the fourth quarter.

Magic 106, Pacers 98

At Orlando, Florida, Dwight Howard overcame a slow start to finish with 21 points and 23 rebounds for Orlando.



AP

Boston Celtics Paul Pierce, right, battles Memphis Grizzlies' Marc Gasol, left, of Spain during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Memphis, Monday, Dec. 14, 2009.

Vince Carter, who missed the past two days of practice because of a stomach ailment, sore right knee and slight hip discomfort, added 28 points for the Magic.

Mike Dunleavy had 26 points and Troy Murphy added 14 for Indiana, which had its two-game winning streak end.

Rashard Lewis and J.J. Redick hit consecutive 3-pointers in the final 2 minutes to put Orlando ahead by eight.

Timberwolves 110, Jazz 108

At Salt Lake City, Jonny Flynn drove for the go-ahead layup with 3 seconds left as Minnesota beat Utah for the second time this season.

Deron Williams had a season-high 38 points and added 13 assists for Utah, but his 3-pointer just before the final buzzer was off the mark and the Timberwolves snapped a four-game losing streak.

Flynn finished with 28 points — eight more than he had ever scored in an NBA game, while Corey Brewer tied his career high with 22 points.

Al Jefferson added 23 points and 12 rebounds for Minnesota and Kevin Love also had a double-double with 11 points and 14 rebounds.

Nuggets 102, Thunder 93

At Denver, Carmelo Anthony scored 31 points—his fourth straight game with at least 30—and Denver beat Oklahoma City for the fifth straight time.

J.R. Smith added 19 points and Chris Andersen had 15 for the Nuggets.

Kevin Durant led Oklahoma City with 32 points for his ninth straight game of 25 or more, the longest active streak in the NBA.

Russell Westbrook and Nick Collison scored 14 points apiece for the Thunder, who haven't beaten the Nuggets since April 2008.

Clippers 97, Wizards 95

At Los Angeles, Eric Gordon matched his season high with 29 points and hit his final free throw with 11.3 seconds left, and Washington's Earl Boykins turned the ball over moments later to seal the Los Angeles Clippers' victory over the Wizards.

Chris Kaman had 11 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter for the Clippers, who overcame a 17-point deficit in the second half before holding off the Wizards, who lost their fifth straight heartbreaker.

Caron Butler scored nine of his 20 points in the final 2:43 for the Wizards, including a 3-pointer with 11.8 seconds left. Gordon's 1-for-2 effort at the line followed before Boykins, the 5-foot-5 former Clipper, lost control of his dribble in the frontcourt with about 4 seconds left.

Red Sox said set to add Lackey, Cameron

BOSTON (AP)—The retooling Red Sox made two key moves in one day, reaching tentative agreements with pitcher John Lackey and outfielder Mike Cameron.

Lackey and Boston agreed on a five-year contract, according to a baseball official with knowledge of the negotiations. The deal is worth $16 million to $17.5 million a season, the official said Monday on condition of anonymity because the agreement was not yet final.

The Red Sox also reached a tentative agreement on a two-year contract with Cameron for $7 million to $8 million annually, according to a person familiar with those negotiations. That deal is subject to a physical, the person said on condition of anonymity because the agreement was not yet final.

The moves seem to indicate Boston has abandoned an attempt to re-sign slugging outfielder Jason Bay.

Lackey, the top pitcher on the free-agent market after spending eight seasons with the Angels, was in Boston for a physical Monday needed to complete the deal, the baseball official said.

Red Sox president Larry Lucchino and co-owner Tom Werner declined comment in e-mails to The Associated Press. Team owner John Henry and general manager Theo Epstein did not respond to e-mails.

The 31-year-old Lackey would give the Red Sox one of the best rotations in baseball, rivaling that of the New York Yankees, who added CC Sabathia and A.J. Burnett before last season and then won the World Series. Sabathia signed for $161 million over seven years, while Burnett got an $82.5 million, five-year deal.

Lackey would join a rotation headlined by Josh Beckett and Jon Lester. Boston also has starters Daisuke Matsuzaka, Clay Buchholz and Tim Wakefield on the roster.

In this Oct. 22, 2009 photo, Los Angeles Angels' John Lackey throws during the first inning of Game 5 of the American League Championship baseball series against the New York Yankees in Anaheim, Calif.

AP

Lackey has a 102-71 regular-season record with a 3.81 ERA in eight seasons, all with the Angels. At Fenway Park, he is 2-5 with a 5.75 ERA in nine starts.

The right-hander is coming off a strong postseason in which he struck out 14 batters in 19 2-3 innings for Los Angeles while allowing five earned runs and 19 hits.

In the opener of the AL division series against Boston in Anaheim, Calif., Lackey allowed four hits with four strikeouts and a walk in 7 1-3 innings of a 5-0 win. Lester gave up three runs and four hits in six innings in that game. The Angels swept the series 3-0.

As a rookie in 2002, Lackey won Game 7 of the World Series against San Francisco.

Cameron, who turns 37 next month, batted .250 with 24 homers and 70 RBIs last season for Milwaukee. A three-time Gold Glove winner in center field, he could switch to left with Boston as a replacement for Bay. The Red Sox have speedy Jacoby Ellsbury in center.

The addition of Lackey might make the 25-year-old Buchholz more expendable in a deal for offense. The Red Sox reportedly have shown interest in first basemen Adrian Gonzalez of San Diego and Miguel Cabrera of Detroit, and could switch Kevin Youkilis to third base. Boston also could pursue free-agent third baseman Adrian Beltre, who spent the past five seasons with Seattle.

A trade of Red Sox third baseman Mike Lowell to the Texas Rangers for minor league catcher Max Ramirez reportedly is being held up by concerns about the condition of Lowell's right thumb.

Beckett was 17-6 with a 3.86 ERA last season, while Lester went 15-8 with a 3.41 ERA. Buchholz had a 7-4 record and a 4.21 ERA after being called up at midseason from Triple-A Pawtucket.

The 43-year-old Wakefield expects to be ready for spring training after having back surgery on Oct. 21. The knuckleballer was picked for the All-Star game for the first time last season and finished 11-5 with a 4.58 ERA.

The Red Sox are hoping Matsuzaka can have a solid full season. He took part in the World Baseball Classic this year, then reported to the Red Sox out of shape. He was 1-5 when he was sidelined with a minor right shoulder strain and began rehab. In his last four starts of the season, he was 3-1 with a 2.22 ERA, lowering his season mark from 8.23 to 5.76.

MLB BRIEFS

AP source: Matsui, Angels reach preliminary deal

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Hideki Matsui is headed west. The World Series MVP and the Los Angeles Angels have reached a preliminary agreement on a one-year contract worth about $6.5 million, a person familiar with the deal told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity Monday because the contract was not yet final. "I can confirm that we are in serious discussions with the Angels," Matsui's agent, Arn Tellem, wrote in an e-mail to The Associated Press. Tellem declined further comment. Matsui surpassed 100 RBIs four times in seven seasons with the Yankees after coming over from Japan, where he was an enormous star. He just completed a $52 million, four-year contract with New York. Matsui hit .274 with 28 homers and 90 RBIs last season, then was selected World Series MVP despite starting only three of the six games against Philadelphia. He went 8 for 13 (.615) with three homers and eight RBIs, tying a Series record by driving in six runs in Game 6. Slowed by surgically repaired knees, the 35-year-old Matsui would replace Vladimir Guerrero as Los Angeles' primary designated hitter. Guerrero, also hobbled by injuries, will turn 35 in February. Both sluggers are free agents. Matsui and the Yankees beat Los Angeles in the AL championship series last season. The Angels have won three straight AL West titles and five of the past six, but haven't reached the World Series since winning the 2002 title. Matsui was among three key free agents on the Yankees. Left-hander Andy Pettitte agreed last week to an $11.75 million, one-year contract. Talks have stalled with left fielder Johnny Damon, whose agent wants more guaranteed years than the team is willing to offer.

Wang goes free as Yankees fail to offer contract

NEW YORK (AP)—Taiwanese pitcher Wang Chien-ming became a free agent when the New York Yankees failed to offer a contract for next season by Saturday night's deadline. The 29-year-old right-hander was a 19-game winner in 2006 and 2007, starting the Yankees' postseason openers in both years, but he hasn't been the same since severely injuring his right foot while running the bases at Houston on June 15, 2008. "We're disappointed. We'll obviously consider all offers as a free agent, as all free agents do," said Wang's agent, Alan Nero. Staying with the Yankees is a possibility. "We'll take our time to make a good decision," Nero said. Wang missed the final 3 1/2 months of the 2008 season, then allowed 23 runs in six innings over three starts when he returned this year. He went back on the disabled list, then returned in late May to make three relief appearances and six starts before his season was ended by shoulder pain. Wang wound up 1-6 with a 9.64 ERA and Dr. James Andrews repaired a tear in the right shoulder capsule during arthroscopic surgery on July 29. Wang is not expected to be able to pitch until sometime between April and June. He made $5 million this year, a $1 million raise over his salary in 2008, when he lost in arbitration. By allowing him to become free, the Yankees can cut his salary by more than the 20 percent limit set by baseball's labor contract for players on rosters. "There's no doubt that we had to make a tough decision," general manager Brian Cashman said in a statement. "We are still hopeful that our relationship can continue, but those decisions are yet to be made."

Source: Phils have tentative deal for Halladay

The Phillies have a tentative agreement to acquire star pitcher Roy Halladay in a trade with Toronto, and the former Cy Young Award winner was in Philadelphia on Monday for a physical required to complete the deal.

Philadelphia also is discussing a trade that would send Cliff Lee, another former Cy Young winner, to the Seattle Mariners.

The commissioner's office granted a 72-hour window on Sunday for Toronto and Philadelphia to complete their trade, a baseball official familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press on Monday. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because Major League Baseball didn't make any announcement.

Halladay took a physical on Monday for the NL champion Phillies, another person with knowledge of the situation said, also on condition of anonymity because no announcement had been made.

Philadelphia could give up pitchers J.A. Happ, Joe Blanton and outfielder Dominic Brown as part of a deal, the person said. Those three players also took physicals in Philadelphia on Monday.

Halladay's agent, Greg Landry, was registered at a Philadelphia hotel, a sign the sides were working on a contract extension, which likely would be necessary before Halladay waives his right to block a trade.

Lee, who like Halladay is eligible for free agency after next season, could wind up going to Seattle, the baseball official said.

The 32-year-old Halladay is the most prized pitcher on the trade market. A six-time All-Star and the 2003 AL Cy Young Award winner, the right-hander went 17-10 with a 2.79 ERA for the Blue Jays last season. He led the majors with four shutouts and nine complete games while throwing 239 innings, second to Detroit's Justin Verlander (240).

Halladay would be a huge addition for the aggressive Phillies, who won the 2008 World Series and repeated as NL champs this year, when they lost the World Series to the New York Yankees in six games.

The Phillies are thought to be a preferable fit for Halladay because they hold spring training in Clearwater, Fla., near his offseason home.

Aware they probably couldn't afford to keep Halladay beyond next season, the Blue Jays shopped their ace before the July 31 trade deadline. The Phillies were thought to be involved in talks involving Halladay at that point, but instead they landed Lee from the Cleveland Indians for four minor leaguers.

Lee was a big reason Philadelphia won its second consecutive pennant, going 4-0 with a 1.56 ERA and two complete games in five postseason starts.

The Blue Jays fired general manager J.P. Ricciardi late in the season and replaced him with Alex Anthopoulos. When contacted Monday by the AP, Anthopoulos declined comment.

The Phillies have been busy this offseason, signing free-agent third baseman Placido Polanco to an $18 million, three-year contract. They also signed Brian Schneider to be their backup catcher, and reserve infielder Juan Castro.

Halladay has been one of baseball's best pitchers for years. He owns a 148-76 career record with a 3.43 ERA.

Noni Saipan on a roll

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

It's payback time for Noni Saipan.

After losing to Saipan Fresh Market in the first round, Noni Saipan played in the second round with vengeance in mind and clobbered the former, 116-84, during their game in the 2009 PILCOWA Basketball League on Sunday at the JP Centre Basketball Court.

Noni bowed to Saipan Fresh in overtime, 108-111, last month and when the two teams met again last weekend, the former made sure it will be on the winning end this time.

A jackrabbit start gave Noni a 32-19 lead at the end of the first period, with Kae Bernardo and Bon Tamayo exploding for 16 and 12 points, respectively.

Bernardo and company slowed down a bit in the second quarter but still Noni outscored Saipan Fresh, 20-17, to pad the lead to 16 at halftime, 52-36.

Ryan Sanciangco, who missed the first half, reported for the game in the third period, but his presence was not enough to bring Saipan Fresh back into the match, as Noni continued to pile up points in the second half.

Ivan Devero tallied eight points in the third and seven of his teammates contributed on offense, too, giving Noni an 80-62 advantage, entering the final canto.

Sonny Lerio then picked up where Devero left off in the fourth period with the former canning three triples and scoring 11 markers en route to Noni's complete demolition of Saipan Fresh.

Noni notched its third straight win and moved up from third to second place in the team standings with its 4-2 record. Saipan Fresh absorbed back-to-back losses and dropped to third spot.

Bernardo paced Noni with 27 points, while Tamayo and Lerio added 24 and 20, respectively. Noni drew double figures from three other players with Devero chipping in 14 and Bart Demapan and Glenn Aquino logging 11 each.

Jun Estolas paced Saipan Fresh with 21 points, while Pagarao was held to 18, a far-cry from the 37 points he scored in their overtime win over Noni in the first round of the regular season.

In the first game, Ebisuya raised its record to 5-1 after winning by forfeit against Cool Water in the masters division.

Noni Saipan 116 – Bernardo 27, Tamayo 24, Lerio 20, Devero 14, Aquino 11, Demapan 11, Basila 4, Abuel 3, Castro 2.

Saipan Fresh 84 – Estolas 21, Pagarao 18, Sanciangco 16, Rebuyon 12, Gapor 9, Factor 4, Opone 2.

Scoring by quarters: 32-19, 52-36, 80-62, 116-84.

DCCA

From Page 28

will take a week-long breather before playing in the finals with a twice-to-beat advantage.

Peter Camacho and Romeo Iginoef guaranteed DCCA a twice-to-beat privilege after firing 25 and 24 points, respectively, in their upset win over IT&E. Their timely baskets helped DCCA halt IT&E's repeated comeback bids in the second half.

DCCA was in cruise control in the first half after limiting IT&E to 10 points in the second quarter to take a 44-28 halftime lead.

Ryan Sanciangco, Elmer Esdrelon, and Bruce Berline then anchored IT&E's rally in the third and managed to cut the lead to as low as four, 48-52.

Camacho and Iginoef scored four points apiece in the closing minutes of the third, giving DCCA a 50-52 lead at the end of that canto.

Camacho made two quick baskets in the fourth quarter in DCCA's short 6-0 run to put the lead back to double figures, 66-52.

IT&E refused to give up and five consecutive points from Elmer Esdrelon moved the team within five, 67-72, going into the final two minutes of the match.

DCCA sued for time and when game resumed, Camacho canned a short jumper, followed by Iginoef's underneath basket that increased the team's lead to seven.

IT&E then made one final attempt to come back when Sanciangco completed a three-point play and Berline stole the ball from Camacho, paving the way for an IT&E fastbreak play. However, Jomary Tumaquip's finger roll rattled off the rim and that has been the story for IT&E all night, missing occasional fastbreak plays and muffing open long jumpers.

While IT&E muffed outside shots and failed to get their fast-paced game going, DCCA was busy drawing a bundle of baskets inside. Elias Rangamar made only two points, but his assists to Camacho and Iginoef inside helped DCCA earn a living from the paint. Camacho and Iginoef were the usual recipients of Rangamar's drive-and-draw and pick-and-roll plays.

IT&E's early bid for a return trip to the finals suffered a big blow after missing big men Edsel Mendoza and Darwin Barbo. Mendoza was injured and was forced to call the plays for IT&E from the sidelines, while Barbo only reported for the game at the 1:27 mark of the fourth canto.

With their big men out, Sanciangco took the cudgels for IT&E and scored 18 points. Berline chipped in 17, but could not contribute in the end, as he was busy bodying up against Camacho and Iginoef in the paint. Esdrelon chipped in 16, but missed several treys and converted only a few fastbreak plays.

DCCA 82 – P. Camacho 25, Iginoef 24, Rasa 17, Van Buren 8, Benavente 6, Rangamar 2.

IT&E 72 – Sanciangco 18, Berline 17, Esdrelon 16, Tumaquip 8, Yamada 5, Renguul 2, Manibusan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-18, 44-28, 60-52, 82-72.

NATIBU

From Page 28

flies and Natibu ended the match on a 6-3 putout play against catcher Derrick Sablan.

J.R. Suel went 4-for-4 for Natibu, scored three runs, had one double and one homer, and made four RBIs. B.J. Sablan was also perfect at the plate, going 3-for-3 and drilling two runs and two RBIs. Bruce Norita went only 2-for-4, but added four RBIs.

Hitz 13, G-Ballers 8

Hitz broke into the win column after two failed attempts, following a 13-8 triumph over G-Ballers.

Kyle Kaipat led Hitz's first win as he went 4-for-4 at the plate, including a two-run homer at the bottom of the sixth inning that gave his team more distance. Kaipat scored three runs, had two homers, and four RBIs.

Hitz led by only two, 9-7, after five and a half innings when Kaipat blasted his second homer and drove Jun Kaipat home for the team's 11-7 lead. Hitz added two more runs on G-Ballers' errors to make it a 13-7 count, and preserved the win when the latter scored only a homer in the last inning.

G-Ballers absorbed their third loss in as many games.

Berdax 13, Lancheros 8

Also snapping its two-game losing skid was Berdax, which downed Lancheros, 13-8.

Frank Robert went 2-for-3 and logged four RBIs to give Berdax its first victory. He had a three-run homer at the bottom of the fourth inning, lifting Berdax to an 8-4 lead.

Lancheros shut out Berdax at the bottom of the fifth inning to keep the former's hopes for a come-from-behind win alive. However, a five-run bottom of the sixth widened Berdax's lead and Lancheros were done when they nailed only three runs at the top of the seventh inning.

TALAVERA

From Page 28

211.25 pinfall average.

Percy Omechalang came in third with his 778 total and 194.75 average. He put together a four-game series of 185, 219, 201, and 173.

Talavera earned $90 for his victory, while Castro and Omechalang pocketed $40 and $30, respectively for their runner-up finishes.

Cal, for her part, captured her third Queen of the Lanes tiara in 2009 after pummeling 694 pinfalls in the women's division.

The March and June Queen of the Lanes started slow with identical 169s in her first two games before breaking through with a 174 in the third and 182 in the fourth that gave her a four-game average of 173.5.

Day 1 leader Yho Villavicencio settled for second place with the 677 pinfalls and 169.25 average she registered Sunday, while Diane Chong rounded out the Top 3 in the women's category with her 656 total and 164 norm.

Villavicencio had a roller-coaster of a tournament, starting with a 144 in her first game, a 179 in her second, a 139 in her third, before exploding for a women's high 215 in her final game. Chong, for her part, came away with games of 161, 151, 171, and 173. Cal took home $70, Villavicencio $30, and Chong $25.

On Sunday, Raphael Zapanta made it 11 out of 12 monthly championships after topping the December Fiji Water Prince/Princess of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament with a pinfall total of 704 and 176 average.

The season-ending Budweiser Queen of the Lanes and Fiji Water Prince/Princess of the Lanes will be held on Jan. 10 followed a week later by the Budweiser King of the Lanes on Jan. 17.

OL'ACES

From Page 28

the absence of veterans Peter Camacho, Elias Rangamar, and Romeo Iginoef in giving Ol'Aces its second straight win. Lizama drilled 27 points, while Barcinas tallied 25 markers for Ol'Aces, which had their three veterans playing in the government/business caging at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium on the same night.

Barcinas and Lizama led Ol'Aces' breakaway in the third quarter. Lizama scored Ol'Aces' first 13 points and Barcinas also canned baskets in succession, firing eight straight markers to give their team a double-digit lead, 61-48, entering the final canto.

Ol'Aces' two offensive threats continued to dominate in the fourth period, leading to the team's 30-point win.

J.R. Barrios top-scored for Diamond with 22 points, while Tim Wesley added 15. Diamond was sans gunner Elmer Esdrelon, who also played in the government/business caging the same night Garcia's wards faced Ol'Aces.

In the second game, Noni Saipan was without hotshot Bon Tamayo, but Sonny Lerio filled the void left by Tamayo on the team's offense.

Lerio scored 22 points, lifting Noni Saipan to an easy 71-55 win over Hoopaholics.

Lerio canned two early triples and big man Glenn Aquino asserted his might inside, giving Noni a 23-10 advantage at the end of the opening quarter. Noni never looked back, as Lerio continued to bury long jumpers and Ivan Devero found his rhythm in the next three periods.

Devero, who was held to four points in Noni's 77-81 debut loss to Advance, played better in his second game, nailing 14 markers. Aquino also finished in double figures, adding 13.

Manibusan drilled 13 points for Hoopaholics, who dropped to a 0-2 start.

First Game

Ol'Aces 92 – Lizama 27, Barcinas 25, Iguel 11, Omar 7, Diaz 6, Olaitiman 4, Rangamar 4, White 1.

Diamond 62 – Barrios 21, Wesley 15, Artates 11, M. Capalad 9, Mercurio 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-15, 34-32, 68-48, 92-64.

Second Game

Noni Saipan 71 – Lerio 22, Devero 14, Aquino 13, Bernardo 7, Demapan , Abuel 4, Pantaleon 4.

Hoopaholics 55 – Manibusan 13, Ruluked 10, Mendiola 7, Sablan 6, Ja. Villacrusis 6, Mendez 5, Teregeyo 2, Jo. Villacrusis 1.

Scoring by quarters: 23-10,42-32, 59-38, 71-55.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	20	4	.833	–
Toronto	11	15	.423	10
New York	8	15	.348	11 1/2
Philadelphia	6	18	.250	14
New Jersey	2	22	.083	18

Southeast Division

Orlando	18	6	.750	–
Atlanta	17	6	.739	1/2
Miami	11	11	.500	6
Charlotte	9	13	.409	8
Washington	7	15	.318	10

Central Division

Cleveland	17	7	.708	–
Milwaukee	11	11	.500	5
Detroit	11	12	.478	5 1/2
Chicago	8	14	.364	8
Indiana	8	14	.364	8

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	18	7	.720	–
San Antonio	12	9	.571	4
Houston	13	10	.565	4
New Orleans	10	13	.435	7
Memphis	10	14	.417	7 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	18	7	.720	–
Utah	14	10	.583	3 1/2
Portland	14	11	.560	4
Oklahoma City	12	11	.522	5
Minnesota	4	21	.160	14

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	18	4	.818	–
Phoenix	16	8	.667	3
Sacramento	10	12	.455	8
L.A. Clippers	10	13	.435	8 1/2
Golden State	7	17	.292	12

Yesterday's Games
Philadelphia 117, Golden State 101
Orlando 106, Indiana 98
Boston 110, Memphis 105
Dallas 94, New Orleans 90
Denver 102, Oklahoma City 93
Minnesota 110, Utah 108
L.A. Clippers 97, Washington 95

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	8	5	0	.615	348	234
Miami	7	6	0	.538	292	306
N.Y. Jets	7	6	0	.538	275	211
Buffalo	5	8	0	.385	215	271

South

x-Indianapolis	13	0	0	1.000	359	217
Jacksonville	7	6	0	.538	235	287
Tennessee	6	7	0	.462	293	323
Houston	6	7	0	.462	311	273

North

Cincinnati	9	4	0	.692	264	217
Baltimore	7	6	0	.538	319	218
Pittsburgh	6	7	0	.462	278	244
Cleveland	2	11	0	.154	158	315

West

San Diego	10	3	0	.769	362	259
Denver	8	5	0	.615	256	230
Oakland	4	9	0	.308	155	316
Kansas City	3	10	0	.231	206	342

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

Philadelphia	9	4	0	.692	372	273
Dallas	8	5	0	.615	296	233
N.Y. Giants	7	6	0	.538	341	330
Washington	4	9	0	.308	234	251

South

x-New Orleans	13	0	0	1.000	466	274
Atlanta	6	7	0	.462	302	305
Carolina	5	8	0	.385	225	282
Tampa Bay	1	12	0	.077	190	356

North

y-Minnesota	11	2	0	.846	389	243
Green Bay	9	4	0	.692	344	243
Chicago	5	8	0	.385	247	291
Detroit	2	11	0	.154	209	406

West

Arizona	8	5	0	.615	306	258
San Francisco	6	7	0	.462	269	242
Seattle	5	8	0	.385	250	301
St. Louis	1	12	0	.077	146	361

x-clinched division
y-clinched playoff spot

Yesterday's Game
San Francisco 24, Arizona 9

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

PILCOWA STANDINGS

Open

Diamond	5	1
Noni Saipan	4	2
Saipan Fresh	3	3
IT&E	2	3
NCIC	0	5

Masters

University of Loyola	5	1
Ebisuya	5	1
Wushin	2	2
GEC	1	4
Cool Water	1	5

UBA STANDINGS

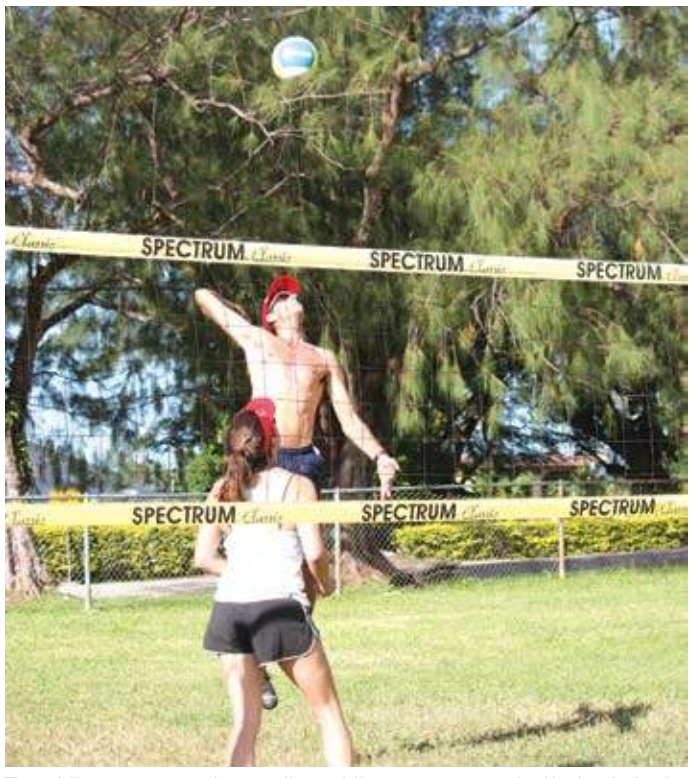
Advance	2	0
Prospect	2	0
Ol'Aces	2	0
Diamond	1	1
Noni Saipan	1	1
Trinity	0	2
Cholos	0	2
Hoopaholics	0	2

BUDWEISER SOFTBALL STANDINGS

Natibu	3	0
Island Rebels	2	0
Chura	2	0
SaiPal	1	0
San Roque	2	1
6-Pack	1	1
Ur Balls	1	1
Ramblers	1	1
Red Eye	1	1
Go For Broke	1	1
Man Amigos	1	1
Team Familia	1	1
Hitz	1	1
Team Fuegu	1	1
Freedom Air Flyers	1	1
Blazers	0	1
Calikano-Falcons	0	1
Lancheros	1	2
Berdax	1	2
X-Terminators	0	2
G-Ballers	0	3

3rd Annual Reverse Co-ed Grass Volleyball Tournament

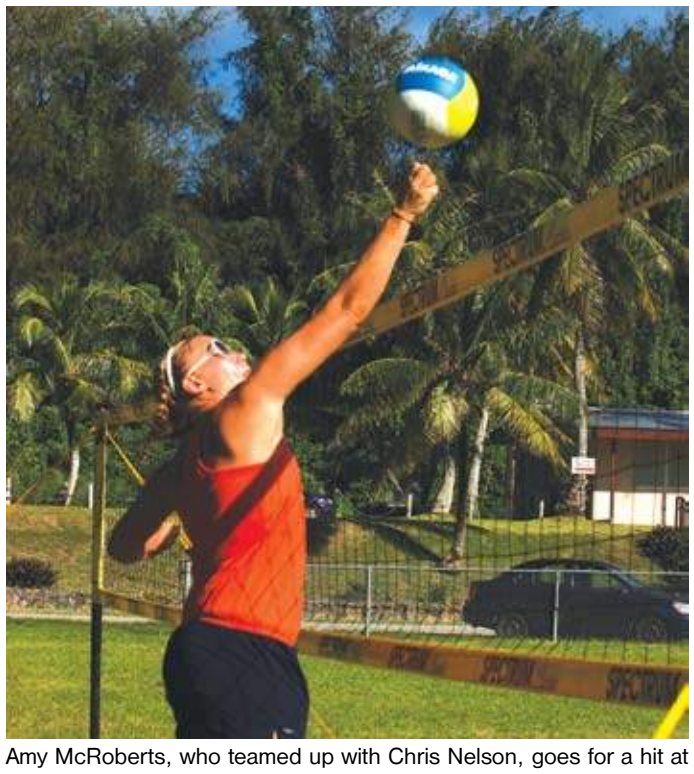
PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Tyce Mister goes up for a spike, while teammate and wife Angie looks on during their playoff game against Melody Matson and Bruce Berline in the 3rd Annual Reverse Co-ed Grass Volleyball Tournament last week at Navy Hill's baseball field.

Emily Matson plays with the ball before serving.

Quincy Johnson serves against the pair of Randy Steel and Heather Kennedy.



Amy McRoberts, who teamed up with Chris Nelson, goes for a hit at the net.

Last year's champion Bruce Berline makes a return.

Melody Matson wipes the ball first before serving.

Keoni Ichihara leaps for a kill.

Randy Steele serves against Quincy Johnson and Emily Matson.

Nicole LeBlanc in action while teammate Greg Elliot looks on.

Bill Owens has his eyes on the ball.

49ers deny sloppy Cardinals NFC West crown

The Arizona Cardinals threw away a chance to clinch a second straight NFC West crown. **24**

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Noni Saipan on a roll

After losing to Saipan Fresh Market in the first round, Noni Saipan played in the second round with vengeance in mind and clobbered the former, 116-84, during their game in the 2009 PIL-COWA Basketball League on Sunday at the JP Centre Basketball Court. **26**

DCCA enters govt/business caging finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs gained entry to the finals of the 2009 IT&E Inter-Government/Business Basketball League after a methodical 82-72 win over defending champion IT&E on Monday night the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

DCCA played a slow-paced type of basketball, catching IT&E out of rhythm en route to the former's 10-point win.

It was DCCA's sixth straight victory in the playoffs, while the loss was IT&E's first, dropping the defending champion to the loser's bracket. IT&E needs to win its next game to boost its chances of defending its title. IT&E's foe has yet to be determined, as three teams are still fighting for the right to face the defending champion. Tinian and Docomo will square off first tonight with the winner meeting pennant champion Hyatt Regency Saipan on Monday. The winner of next week's match will then square off against IT&E for the last finals seat.

DCCA, which needed to survive the wild-card phase to advance to the eight-team playoffs, does not have to go through the same grueling process and

See DCCA on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

DCCA's Ponce Rasa, left, dives for the ball, while IT&'s Jomary Tumaquip looks on during their playoff game in the government/business caging on Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Natibu seizes solo lead

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Natibu won the battle of undefeated teams in Chamolinian Softball Association's 2009 Budweiser Slow-pitch Softball League after slipping past San Roque, 19-16, on Monday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Natibu used Ned Norita's two-run homer and Carl Hocog's solo round-tripper at the bottom of the sixth inning as cushion to improve to a 3-0 record and take the solo lead in the 21-team field.

Norita and Sablan's big hits gave Natibu a 19-14 lead after six complete innings and forced San Roque to score at least five at the top of the last inning to extend the game.

However, San Roque had only its first two runners scoring on E.J. and Manny Tenorio's sacrifice

See NATIBU on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Natibu's Ned Norita hit a two-run homer at the bottom of the sixth inning to lift his team to a 19-16 win over San Roque in the Chamolinian softball league on Monday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Talavera, Cal win December roll-off

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Like they did in June, Robert Talavera and Ron Cal topped the Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament last Sunday and Monday at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Talavera won the December roll-off after amassing an eye-popping pinfall total of 905, good for an amazing 226.25 average, on Monday.

The June King of the Lanes started his hunt for a second monthly championship with a near perfect game of 278 in Game 1. He, however, followed that up with a dud—a head-scratching 188—before rebounding nicely with a 204 and 235 in his third and final matches.

In any other month, Alex Castro's 845 pinfall total would've been enough to get him the monthly plum, but for the December event it was only good for second best as Talavera was scorching the lanes.

Castro tried to match Talavera's score from the get-go, knocking down 223 in the first game. But like Talavera, he also came up with a substandard Game 2 total of 158 before concluding his stint with a 206 and 258 in the third and fourth games—giving him a

See TALAVERA on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Budweiser December King of the Lanes Robert Talavera is flanked by Alex Castro, right, and Percy Omechalang.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Budweiser December Queen of the Lanes Ron Cal is flanked by Yho Villavicencio, right, and Diane Chong.

Ol'Aces gain share of lead, Noni recovers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ol'Aces joined the three-way logjam for the lead in the Inaugural 2009 UBA/Miller Lite Men's Basketball League after hammering Diamond Fixers, 92-62, on Monday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

The win was Ol'Aces' second in as many games, putting them in a tie for the lead with Prospects and Advance X-Terminators. The loss was Diamond's first, as the Boy Garcia-coached teamed failed to make a follow-up on their 66-63 debut victory over Cholos last week.

Young guns Dan Barcinas and Jack Lizama made up for

See OL'ACES on Page 26

Noni Saipan's Jun Pantaleon, front, battles Hoopaholics' Dave Palacios for the rebound during their game in the UBA caging at the Garapan Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO